23 take oath as US citizens. PAGE 2
Atalig's 2 other trips to be used as evidence. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 15
www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY JANUARY 23, 2019 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune
75¢

Potential abuse causes PH removal

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Torres: Where do we get our workers now?

The potential for abuse of the H-2B visas was the reason why U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services removed the Philippines from the said worker visa program. Department of Homeland Security in last Friday's Federal Register declared the Philippines along with the Dominican Republic and Ethiopia as three countries that are no longer eligible for the H-2B visa.

See REMOVAL on Page 4

'USCIS decision may hamper recovery efforts'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palacios

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios said local businesses are directly impacted by the decision of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to remove the Philippines from the H-2B visa program, especially with the islands of Saipan and Tinian still recovering from two devastation brought by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Palacios said most of the construction workers in the Commonwealth are from the Philippines and they fall under a different category that is different from the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker visa or the CW-1 program.

"Having the Philippines removed from the H2B Visa Program is distressing news. This will significantly impact our islands' recovery, as most of the construction workers are from the Philippines. Our membership has been working to comply with the federal government and has encouraged construction companies to transition their construction workers to H-2B, as these companies are

See USCIS on Page 4

HOUSE TRIBUTE

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, third left, and first lady Diann T. Torres, fourth left, with Lisa Manglona Dela Cruz, fifth left, the widow and the family of the late representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz after yesterday's tribute to the former House vice speaker at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

JON PEREZ

Man robbed at knifepoint in broad daylight

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man was robbed at knifepoint in broad daylight yesterday across the Commonwealth Casino Commission office on Middle Road.

At around 10:40am yesterday, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and the Department of Public Safety were seen responding to an incident across the CCC office located at Springs Plaza.

According to the victim, a Korean male, he was robbed at knifepoint following a meeting he attended at CCC.

The victim sustained a gash to the arm as a result of the robbery.

The victim requested that his name be kept confidential.

See ROBBED on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS

The world economy absorbed more bad news Monday: The International Monetary Fund cut its growth forecast for 2019.

PAGE 13

ASIA

More South Korean female skaters are accusing their coaches of sexually abusing them, a group representing the athletes disclosed Monday.

PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE

The Oscars still don't have a host, but on Tuesday morning, they'll at least have nominees.

PAGE 19

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

23 take oath as US citizens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Imperial Pacific International LLC in-house counsel Kelley Butcher, seated left, and Immigration Services Officer Shelia Kelty, seated right, join the 23 new U.S. citizens in a group photo during a naturalization ceremony yesterday in federal court.

For businessman Wilfredo G. Ching, obtaining U.S. citizenship is "something fulfilling" as he waited for eight years.

The 64-year-old Ching got a green card after his son, Public School System budget and finance director Christopher Ching, petitioned him years ago.

Ching's other son is currently staying in Florida.

With his age, Ching prefers to stay on Saipan rather than going to the U.S. mainland.

Born in Leyte, but grew up in Quezon City, Philippines, Ching has been living on Saipan since 1986. His first job on the island was an accountant for the late businessman Anthony Pellegrino.

Ching currently owns Perfect Set Jewelry Store, Gene's Barber Shop, and some trading businesses.

Carey Hong Blalock was overwhelmed as she took her oath as a U.S. citizen during the naturalization ceremony in the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday.

"I'm so honored to be an American citizen," said the 38-year-old Blalock, who hails from South Korea.

Blalock said her Korean name is Soyoung but she changed it because when she moved to Saipan.

It's good to have her name Soyoung as she is "young forever," but on the island everybody knows her as Carey, said the beaming Blalock.

"I'm happy and I have a brand-new passport," Blalock said, adding that she got her citizenship as she got married to businessman Harry Blalock five years ago.

She said she is now free to visit her son this summer who is staying in the U.S. mainland.

Blalock first arrived on island in February 2010, where she worked as a store supervisor with Christian Dior at the Duty Free Shoppers.

» Imperial Pacific's counsel Butcher serves as the guest speaker

At present, she is working as a luxury brand supervisor at DFS.

Cheng Wei, 22, said he was so excited and honored to become a U.S. citizen.

Wei, who is from China, arrived on the island in 2011 as a 16-year-old student.

Wei's U.S. citizen father petitioned him to get a green card.

Wei, who is currently working as a sales associate at DFS, plans to pursue his college degree in the U.S. mainland.

Ching, Blalock, and Wei were among the 23 persons who took oath as U.S. citizens at yesterday's naturalization ceremony.

Imperial Pacific International LLC's in-house counsel Kelley Butcher served as the guest speaker at the ceremony. She used to work as a law clerk for Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, an assistant public defender, and in-house legal counsel for PSS.

Butcher talked about the life of Martin Luther King Jr., who was known for advancing civil rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience.

The nation celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. last Monday.

Butcher noted that the CNMI only started celebrating Martin Luther King Day in 2006.

Butcher also shared the life story of her late father, Dr. Richard Butcher.

Dr. Butcher, who died in November 2016 in Orlando, was a known family practitioner venerated for his work with the poor and disadvantaged in southeastern San Diego.

Dr. Butcher was called "champion of the underserved." Many years ago, he won the "Practitioner of the Year Award."

At the naturalization ceremony, the court played a video of Martin Luther King Jr. when he delivered his famous speech "I Have A Dream."

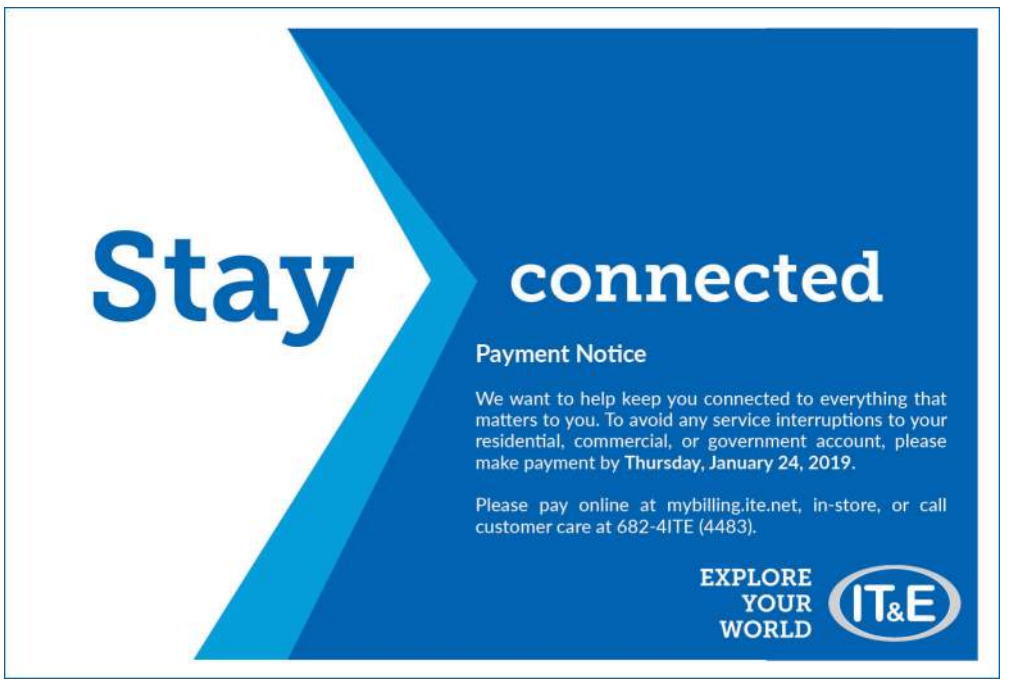
U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, who administered the oath for the new citizens, said Isaac Newton was quoted as saying, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on your shoulders of giants."

Manglona said for her it's translated as "who we are because of the hard work of the people who came before us."

Manglona said she subscribes to this statement because without people like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Dr. Butcher, both wonderful men peacefully advocating for everyone's civil rights, she thinks she would not have had the honor and privilege of serving the nation in the federal judiciary.

Aside from Ching, Blalock, and Wei, the 20 other new citizens were Eladia Gabut Muna, Marina Tubig Reyes, Dolores Mabaet Olino, Qixing Zhang, Bartolome Simon Ordonez, Jesela Anduyan Cruz, Myung Koo Shin, Dan Wang, Jiah Lee Iguel, Gaudelia Verbo Gambon, Hongyun Li Masga, Bryan Rosal Paracale, Delia Barrogo Johnson, Fengmei Li, Reynante Masinegra Odal, Marvin Santos De Belen, Gerardo Leoncio Paguiligan, Ailene Cinco Alanan, Florencia Sunio Aguon, and Mengjuan Liu.

THE BEST GAMING CLUB IN SAIPAN
WELCOME
TO Fabulous
SAIPAN VEGAS
GOLF RESORT & SLOT CLUB
JANUARY
PLAYER PROMOTION
Spin to Win
with a chance to
win $1,000
on our daily player promo draws.
With over $11,000 to be won
only at the Best Gaming Club in Saipan.
Come play today and you could be the next big winner!


Stay
connected
Payment Notice
We want to help keep you connected to everything that matters to you. To avoid any service interruptions to your residential, commercial, or government account, please make payment by Thursday, January 24, 2019.
Please pay online at mybilling.ite.net, in-store, or call customer care at 682-4ITE (4483).
EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
IT&E

Atalig's 2 other trips to be used as evidence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government intends to introduce evidence Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig's two other trips not included in the indictment and has produced over 600 pages of materials related to such trips.

Atalig, through counsel David G. Banes, revealed the U.S. government's action in his unopposed motion for extending pretrial motion deadlines.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Atalig's motion to extend his filing of pretrial motions from Jan. 22, 2019 to Jan. 29, 2019.

Banes said the prosecution last Thursday and Friday indicated that it intended to introduce as evidence the two trips not described in the superseding indictment at trial under Federal Rule of Evidence 404(b) to prove "motive, opportunity, intent, preparation, plan, knowledge, identity, absence of mistake, or lack of accident."

Banes said the prosecution produced more than 600 pages of discovery materials related to those two new trips.

Atalig intends to file a motion to exclude such evidence, but needs additional time for his counsel to review those discovery materials and to prepare the motion.

Banes said the counsel for the U.S. government has indicated that he would not oppose the requested extension of pretrial motion deadlines.

Banes said counsel for co-defendant Evelyn M. Atalig indicated he would move the court for the same extension as to Mr. Atalig as well.

Manglona also granted yesterday Evelyn Atalig's request for extension.

Last September, a federal grand jury indicted Atalig after he allegedly arranged a government-funded trip from Rota to Guam for himself and 12 other persons, including eight municipal employees, on a false claim that he was going to check for surplus or equipment at the Naval Base in Guam. He allegedly came to participate in a partisan political rally last June 23 in Mangilao.

The indictment charged Atalig with one count of wire fraud.

The Office of the Attorney General also filed on the same day criminal charges in Superior Court against Atalig and seven other Rota municipal officials in connection with the Guam political rally.

Atalig was re-elected as Rota mayor during the last Nov. 13 election.

Last Nov. 28, the U.S. government filed a superseding indictment in federal court charging Mayor Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn M. Atalig, with five corruption charges for allegedly arranging CNMI government-funded trips to California, Republic of Palau, Guam, and Saipan under fraudulent pretenses.

The Ataligs entered pleas of not guilty of all charges in both cases.

Customers First
TRIPLE J
DRIVE IN
TRIPLE J SAYS Yes!
THE NEW YEAR
WITH HYUNDAI
2019 HYUNDAI
ELANTRA
• Fuel-efficient, 4-cyl. Engine
• Automatic Transmission • 16" Alloy Wheels
• Android Auto & Apple CarPlay connectivity
• 7" touch-screen Audio Display with Back-up Camera
• 9 Airbag Safety System
UP TO 37 MPG
YOUR CHOICE
$21,995
OR AS LOW AS $152 PER PAYCHECK
HYUNDAI
NEW THINKING NEW POSSIBILITIES
Saipan's Best Warranty
10-Year/100,000-Mile
Limited Powertrain Warranty
2019 HYUNDAI
KONA
• Fuel-efficient, 4-cyl. Engine
• Automatic Transmission • 16" Alloy Wheels
• Android Auto & Apple CarPlay connectivity
• 7" touch-screen Audio Display with Back-up Camera
UP TO 33 MPG
Kona
CHECK OUR ENTIRE INVENTORY
@triplejsaipan.com
Receive $500 in Truckload Store
Shopping certificates with the purchase of any new Hyundai!
TRUCKLOAD STORE
Customers First
TRIPLE J MOTORS
Beach Road, Chalan LauLau
OPEN Open: Mon-Fri: 8am to 6pm • Sat: 8am to 5pm
Tel: 234-7133/234-3051
autosales@triplejsaipan.com
WWW.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM
Like us on facebook
Triple J Motors, Saipan
*On approved credit (OAC). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2,500. While current supplies last. 2019 Elantra SEL and Kona L – total price is $21,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 4.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $331.25 per month or $152 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $19,875.00.

‘Operations at CNMI airports not affected by partial federal govt shutdown’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Operations of the Transportation Security Administration at the CNMI international airports are not affected with the partial federal government shutdown.

“We do have enough screeners,” said TSA assistant federal security director of CNMI Shawna Alldridge in a phone interview Monday night.

Alldridge said even with the partial federal government shutdown, they got their officers on duty.

“There are still amazing officers come to work, doing what they need to do,” she said.

Allridge said the partial shutdown is only affecting “personal lives.”

She disclosed that TSA officers received their last paycheck at the end of December 2018.

“We are coming up on two paydays,” the TSA official said, adding that they will just continue their job.

In addition to providing federal Transportation Security Officers, TSA is responsible for oversight of the airport’s security plan and working to ensure each airline meets the agency’s security standards.

REMOVAL

From Page 1

USCIS is one of the subordinate agencies under DHS that is currently headed by Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen. The DHS-USCIS decision was in concurrence with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, saying that the three countries almost have the same factors that resulted from their removal.

Abuse, denial and overstay rates, fraud, human trafficking concerns, and other forms of non-compliance with the terms and conditions were the factors listed as the reasons why USCIS would exclude or remove nationals of certain countries from the H-2 visa programs. Workers, whose visas were approved before the decision, are not affected.

DHS and the State Department, according to the Federal Register, said Filipino nationals who hold H-2B visas have a high rate of going beyond their authorized period of stay in fiscal year 2017. Their recent review showed a 40-percent overstay rate and a 60-percent volume that were determined to have been trafficked to the U.S. using the H-2B visa.

“DHS and DOS are concerned about the high volume of trafficking victims from the Philippines, who were originally issued H-2B visas and the potential that continued H-2B visa issuance may encourage or serve as an avenue of future human trafficking from the Philippines,” as stated in the Federal Register notice.

DHS and DOS added that their overstay and human trafficking concerns also warranted the Philippines’ removal from the H-2A visa as well. “This concern is informed by a four-fold increase in H-2A visa applications from nationals of the Philippines between FY 2015 to 2018. The Philippines’ continued inclusion creates the potential for abuse, fraud, and other harm to the integrity of the H-2A or H-2B visa programs.

The H-2A visa are for foreign nationals to be allowed entry for temporary or seasonal agricultural jobs, while the H-2B is for non-agricultural related work. H-2B visas are used by the CNMI and Guam to hire foreign labor in the construction sector, where both U.S island territories enjoy no numerical limit on the number of approvals.

The Dominican Republic has an estimate of nearly 30 percent overstay rate for H-2B visa holders in FY 2017 while Ethiopia was designated as an “at risk of non-compliance” since 2016 based on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s biannual assessment on the issuance of travel documents for citizens, subjects, nationals, and residents of the said country.

Reactions

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has asked Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to use his position to act on the issue and find a possible solution on USCIS’ decision to take away the visa classification used by the CNMI to get foreign construction workers. “All our construction workers are H-2Bs. Now that the Philippines is out, where do you expect our businesses to get the workers they need?”

“I’m not sure how many workers are affected, but it is pushing us even worse to where we are at. Now we have the Democratic leadership in the [U.S.] House, I would like to ask Congressman Kilili to make use of his position to do proper and permanent action for stability not only for H-2Bs but overall long-term status and other issues regarding our immigration.”

“I will be sending a letter to [DHS] outlining our labor needs and economic viability. I [also] ask Delegate [Sablan] to utilize his position in the House majority to safeguard our economy and our businesses. We now see that his bill H.R. 339, which bans new construction workers from applying for CW1 permits, will negatively impact us because we cannot bring in additional construction workers from the Philippines now. This issue is too important, and our administration will continue to make sure our economy is protected for our success.”

He added that the removal of the Philippines from the H-2B program would affect the ongoing construction projects in the CNMI. “Not only [Imperial Pacific], but also the small construction businesses. How many construction workers from the Philippines do we have and you take that amount from small construction firms, it equates to the same number with the big companies.”

“These construction workers from the Philippines are not just simply construction workers here, but they are actually family members too. So, we would like to ask Congressman [Sablan], since he represents us in the U.S. Congress, to please use his position to find permanent action to our situation.”

Torres added that Filipinos have been an instrumental part of the CNMI even before it became a Commonwealth. “Since the early 1970s, they have played a vital role in our economy through various job categories and the remain our friends, neighbors, and family. I recognize the issue of overstayers, but I believe we have done our share of enforcement locally and have worked with our federal partners on cracking down on bad actors.”

“This will be a significant hit to the CNMI economy because we are an economy limited by labor and our location. The Philippines is the closest country to our islands, and they have been our primary source of labor for decades. There is no doubting the contributions of our Filipino community, and we will continue our efforts to emphasize our need for laborers in order to continue our progress.”

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios added that USCIS’ decision was a surprising turn of events for the CNMI’s developing economy and the islands still recovering. “The Philippines is one of the largest sources for our H-2B visas for construction so this is going to have an impact on our economy especially as we recover.”

“This affects the government too, as it may negatively impact our CIP projects, our recovery and rebuilding efforts, other infrastructure resiliency projects for development. We will be proactive and work something out with our federal partners. We look to work with Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio on remedies for the CNMI and Guam.”

Press secretary Kevin Bautista said USCIS’ decision was disappointing news for the CNMI since the administration has worked with the business sector to solve the Commonwealth’s workforce issues.

“Over the last several years, we have worked with our private sector partners to transition workers to the H-2B program due to the limitations imposed on our CW program, especially for construction. We will closely monitor the impact it will have on our construction industry,” said Bautista.

“As we continue to hone in on our local workforce development initiatives, the administration will continue to work with our federal partners to address not just this critical issue, but to also advocate for our viability as an island economy that just wants to succeed for our people.”

House Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee chair Rep. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan) said he has met with some of his colleagues to map out a plan of action. “I know from the House side we are monitoring the situation very closely. The FAA committee is going to monitor the situation and will be working with our federal partners as well to come to terms with this situation. It is going to affect us tremendously, it is something that we have to monitor closely.”

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) added the decision would impact the CNMI’s construction industry since non-U.S. eligible construction workers do not fall under the CW-1 worker program. “I was under the impression that the H2B category was supposed to bridge this gap.”

“With this recent notice, we will not be able to employ H2B employees from the above countries. It almost feels like we just lost our last oar to paddle our canoe forward. I look forward to working with fellow government officials and industry experts to find a solution at the soonest.”

ROBBED

From Page 1

DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero said that he could not disclose who the suspect was or if he was apprehended or not due to ongoing investigation.

The victim described the suspect as a local male wearing a black hooded top and had a heavy Carolinian accent.

At the scene, *Saipan Tribune* observed that police officers were in the process of interviewing the victim and obtaining CCTV footage from neighboring establishments.

The process took over an hour and at around 11:45am press time, CCTV footage was not obtained yet.

The victim told *Saipan Tribune* that he had just finished attending a meeting at the CCC office and was mugged before he entered his vehicle.

Prior to the meeting, the victim said he had withdrawn money from the Bank of Hawaii Middle Road branch that is located in the same building as the CCC office.

The victim said that before he entered his vehicle, the suspect stopped him with a tap on his shoulder and told him to give up his bag that contained the money.

The victim said he refused to give in to the suspect’s demand and that’s when he pulled out a knife and swung at him.

The victim said he was able to dodge the first swing but the suspect was able to slash his left arm.

The victim said the injury led him to let go of the bag and the suspect took the money out of his bag, dropped the bag, and ran toward the direction of Quarter Master Road.

The victim did not disclose how much was withdrawn, but according to individuals who witnessed the incident, a large amount seemed to have been taken.

USCIS

From Page 1

not able to use the CW-1 visas for construction worker,” she said.

Palacios added that the availability of a local construction workforce had been a problem for the CNMI due to the severe impact brought by Yutu. “We also have encouraged the training of our existing U.S.-eligible workforce to take on some of these trades.”

“However, the availability and accessibility of training has also been hindered due to the typhoon, and the vast immediate need for rebuilding cannot be solved by a local workforce in a time that will not impact people’s ability to get back into safe homes.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is one of the CNMI’s federal partners in the rebuilding of the islands where they hope to strengthen local infrastructure and at the same time build typhoon-resilient houses and other structures.

Palacios said the Philippines’ removal from the H-2B program is discouraging, especially with local businesses complying with the regulations. “Our businesses have already invested a lot to comply and to have the rugs pulled under them is discouraging.”

“Construction companies will have to find other resources to meet the demands of the construction industry—a demand tenfold greater because of the typhoons which have devastated our islands.”

She added that families whose homes were destroyed by Yutu will also have a hard time getting skilled labor to either repair or rebuild their houses. “This will mostly impact middle-income families, those who had to take out [U.S. Small Business Administration] loans for their rebuilding, as they were not eligible for FEMA rebuilding assistance. Renters will also be greatly impacted, as both landlords and families will not be able to afford the little-to-no labor that will be available for non-commercial rebuilding. There will be more strains on housing, and people will be forced to live in unsafe, unsanitary, and unsecure conditions.”

Palacios said construction laborers will not also not be immediately available for local businesses to employ. “They [businesses] will also not be able to avail of construction needed to rebuild our island. This will impact our ability to attract tourists, to provide services for people who live here, and sustain our economy.

“Even if there are solutions proposed through FEMA that can assist with rebuilding for families, our businesses—especially small business owners—will not be able to avail of that solution. Construction as it stands will be nearly impossible, and there will be rippling effects on the quality of rebuilding, the availability of both low- and middle-income housing, and our ability to maintain the façade of our buildings to attract the tourism industry.”

She said that Chamber would continue to work with the local and federal government to remedy the situation. “It is difficult to imagine a situation where our economy, our homes, and our families will not be worse off because of this restriction to H2A and H2B visas from the Philippines. [The Chamber] hopes to be a good partner to both our local and federal government agencies as the community looks for a solution to our dire situation.”

Community support eases family's sorrow

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ
Retired CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Jose S. Dela Cruz, right, were among the pallbearers who escorted his brother's casket on their way to the Mt. Carmel Cemetery in last Saturday's funeral rites of the late representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz.

Rep. Joseph I. Itibus (R-Saipan) conveyed the message of thanks of the family of the late representative Francisco S. Dela Cruz after last Saturday's mass of Christian burial and Rite of Committal at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral and cemetery.

Itibus, who served his first term with Dela Cruz when the latter returned to the 20th Legislature, said the former vice speaker was close to the hearts of a lot of people. "It is not easy to endure the pain and having to let go of our beloved Frank or Liki as he is well known."

"He is a loving husband, father, brother, and grandfather. It is never easy to bear with the grief and sorrow because of his untimely passing. But, in the moment of [the family's] grief and loss, you [community] were there to make things easier."

Itibus added that the entire family of the late lawmaker—especially his wife Lisa, their children, and grandchildren—are grateful for the outpouring of love and support. "We're truly blessed to his memories and all that he has done to make the CNMI a better place."

"To Fr. Ken [J. Hezel, S.J.] and the members of the clergy who celebrated the mass, the Olomwaay choir with your hymns, and to all the friends and relatives, thank you for your thoughtfulness, messages of condolences, and prayers," said Itibus.

"Your warm support has given the family the strength to move on. The time you've spent with them in prayer, from joining them in the 12 days of daily masses at Kristo Rai to [Saturday], have given them much comfort from their sorrow. For all of these, thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

Retired CNMI Supreme Court chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz also remembered his brother as a gentle and humble person. "His first priority has always been his family—wife, children, and grandchildren. His personal integrity also became the benchmark of public service, which became his passion for the people of the CNMI."

"Our island customs, unique language and traditions, and our island way of life. In our culture, we share things with one another and help each other in time of need. These values were inculcated to us by our parents and grandparents, and Frank never forgot them even with the age of the internet and social media."

Hezel, who is the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa's vice general and Kristo Rai Parish's administrator, said three of the Eight Beatitudes of the Politician delivered by Pope Francis on World Peace Day applies to Dela Cruz.

"Frank was a lector at Kristo Rai, with his deep and warm baritone voice he had a wonderful way of reading the scriptures. I always look for him for special occasions; like Easter Vigil, when we need somebody to read the long Genesis story of creation. He has been known as a voice of reason, calm and firm; a man of his own conviction," said Hezel.

"Three of the Eight Beatitudes of the Politician are proper for Frank. Blessed be the politician who exemplifies credibility; Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not for his or her own interests; Blessed be the politician who has no fear."

Hezel added that he was told that before Dela Cruz died he still managed to make the sign of the cross. "Even though he was having a hard time to breathe, he took the time to make the sign of the cross. Even at the end of his life, he remembered to honor God."

ARMATECH
LED Lights Supply and Installation
Tel: (670) 234-8895/97 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

CASH FOR
COLLEGE
Spring 2019
ONE-TO-ONE HELP!
Attendees of the FREE workshop will be provided with personal assistance in completing forms for the:
• Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
• CNMI Scholarship • SHEFA • Teach Grant • Other Financial Aid
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019
The workshop will be an ongoing session so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and 12pm.
Workshop will be held at the Northern Marianas College As Terlaje Campus, between Buildings N and O.
www.facebook.com/NMC.Proa
www.twitter.com/GoProa
www.instagram.com/NMC.Proa
FOR MORE INFORMATION
Visit marianas.edu for details or call the NMC Financial Aid Office at (670) 237-6792.
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
NMC
1981

COTA, PSS collaborate on Passenger Assistance and Safety Sensitive Training

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Transit operators of the Commonwealth Office on Transit Authority and the CNMI Public School System Pupil Transportation pose during the completion of their two-day Passenger Assistance and Safety Sensitive training over the weekend.

The Special Assistant for Public Transportation Alfreda P. Camacho announced that the operations team and the Public School System Pupil Transportation Office have recently completed training toward Passenger Assistance and Safety Sensitive certification.

Camacho explained that in its fourth year of this training, the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority is grateful to Education Commissioner, Mr. Glenn Muna and director for the Pupil Transportation Office, Shaun San Nicholas, for accepting COTA's invitation to collaborate in order to meet the passenger assistance standards and the CNMI's overall rider demographics.

"I want to extend my appreciation to Commissioner Glenn Muna and Mr. Shaun San Nicolas for accepting COTA's invitation to collaborate," said Camacho.

"A total of 18 operators took part in this training, and we are very pleased with the assistance of our CTAA (Community Transportation Association of America) trainer who is based out of Guam and is a current board member for the Guam Regional Transit Authority. We've implemented many national standards as a result of this training and will continue to deliver safe and courteous transit services for our community."

Camacho added that by successfully achieving a full receipt of certifications by the CTAA, transit operators of COTA and PSS will be better versed in ADA-compliance, equipment operations, and customer service needs, especially during times of natural or man-made disasters.

Certified CTAA Passenger Service and Safety trainer Ginger Porter, M.Ed expressed that COTA operators and staff as well as PSS have continued to build upon their knowledge and apply it in practice successfully over the years.

"For a few of them, this training is a good refresher course especially when dealing with new equipment but overall the teams are knowledgeable and seasoned operators who are very proficient and have the potential to become in-house trainers as well," she said.

Porter noted that the agency is going in the right direction by taking initiative to remain up to date to national standards.

"COTA has a great group of individuals who truly care about the needs of this community. I commend the agency's effective management and the consistency in training towards their overall growth," Porter said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres emphasized that the continuous training is needed as the agency expands in the next few years as well as the need to push for transit alignment in critical sectors.

"In previous years, we've ensured that we meet national standards and that our drivers were given the opportunity to improve their skills and knowledge because the most important asset in any transit agency or provider is our transit operators. Whether our operators serve our public schools or provide services to our elderly and people with disabilities, it is important that we maintain the highest standard possible," Torres said.

Following the aftermath of Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu, Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios extended their gratitude to PSS and COTA for working together to assist the community safely and efficiently and now come together to align standards of service.

"As COTA continues to prioritize training and is collaborating with PSS to better serve our community, there is so much progress ahead of us, and we commend both agencies for their resilience and foresight. I thank Education Commissioner Glenn Muna for his continued partnership and all our transit operators. I am very hopeful that our transportation services in the Commonwealth will grow and strengthen as a result," Palacios said.

For more information on the Commonwealth Office on Transit Authority, log on to www.facebook.com/COTA-Saipan. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 24, 2019
5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 10/04/2018 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings:

1. Conditional Use Application #2018-3838: Joy Y. Silva dba AJ Machine Shop is proposing to occupy an existing one-storey building for its fabrication services. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A. 005 I 124 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

2. Rezone Application #2018-4299: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction is requesting to rezone Lot No. 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial" zoning district for warehousing and fabrication of materials for construction projects. This lot is located along Attilong Lane, east of Saipan Health Clinic and Green Meadows School.

3. Conditional Use Application #2018-4302: Top Sheng Investment, LLC is proposing to operate a Powered Paragliding business. This use is classified as "Amusement, Outdoor" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 080 A 01 in Marpi. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Communication
D. Old Business
1. Update on the ATV, UTV, and Motorcycle Regulation

E. New Business
1. Text & Map Amendments to 2013 Saipan Zoning Law – for Board Adoption
2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session
G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Note: This ad was published ONLINE on January 10th, 2019

POSTPONED DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM

SHRM general membership meeting to address ADA

The Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter's January general membership meeting will feature Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. project specialists Greg Borja and Elsie Tilipao.

These presenters will discuss Titles I & III of the Americans with Disabilities Act covering the topics of Employment and Public Accommodations (non-discrimination of people with disabilities in areas including employment, access to government programs and services, and access to services provided by public entities).

Friday's general membership meeting will also include the installation of the 2019 NMI SHRM Board of Directors officiated by NMI Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

SHRM NMI Chapter invites its members, associated HR and management staff, and interested members of the public to attend its next general membership meeting on Friday, Jan. 25, 2019, at PIC's Charley's Cabaret beginning at 11:30am.

This meeting is open to the public and will provide invaluable information for employers, Managers, and HR professionals and staff. The presentation includes the PIC lunch buffet at the cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by e-mail at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The Society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, you can visit their website at http://nmi-chapter.shrm.org. ***(PR)***

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment to the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone) for RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. RJCL Corporation dba RNV Corporation is requesting to rezone Lots # EA 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya, from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial" zoning district.
A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Thursday, January 24, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, January 23, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

POSTPONED DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM

KMTC donates to Karidat for typhoon recovery

Several Korean tourism executives visiting The Marianas to assess the recovery of the destination following Super Typhoon Yutu have pooled their resources to aid local families facing long-term recovery and others in need.

Representatives of Korean Marianas Tourism Council donated $10,000 to Karidat Social Services on Jan. 10, 2019, during their recent FAM tour of Saipan organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"We are extremely grateful to the members of KMTC for their very generous donation to the local community while they were here," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "It is very heartwarming to see our tourism partners support our community even more during times like this. Karidat is one of the lead agencies for the long-term recovery of families—such as those who've lost their homes—and we hope this donation will be a big help in those efforts."

MVA

Members of Korean Marianas Tourism Council collectively donate $10,000 on Jan. 10, 2019, at the Marianas Visitors Authority office in Saipan to representatives of Karidat Social Services for typhoon recovery aid. Donors include, Jae Chan Leigh of Sejoong Tour, Hyoung Jo Jang of KRT, Moo Seung Yang of Tour 2000, Eui Kwon Chung of SM Town Travel, and Jin Seok Lee of Naeil Tour. Not pictured are Sang Ho Lee of Very Good Tour, Min Yoon of Tide Square, and Myung Sub Yoo from Jeju Air.

Contributing companies were Jeju Air, Tour 2000, Sejoong Tour, Very Good Tour, Tide Square, SM Town Travel, KRT, and Naeil Tour.

The MVA's 2019 "We Together" VIP FAM tour was held on Jan. 10-13, 2019, with CEOS from seven travel agencies and representatives of Jeju Air and DFS. The group's tour commenced with a welcome dinner and a meeting with MVA management. The group visited major hotels and resorts popular with Korean travelers, where they met with hotel partners to discuss the status of hotels after the typhoon and the normalization of package sales. Members enjoyed dinner at Hyatt Regency Saipan and attended a dinner meeting hosted by DFS T Galleria at Korean restaurant Cheong Gi Wa, followed by an inspection of T Galleria. They also visited Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort and lodged at Aqua Resort Club Saipan during their visit.

Senators introduce bill to increase transparency of environmental violations

Terlaje

Ridgell

Perez

HAGATNA, Guam—Sens. Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina Flores Perez, and Clynt Ridgell introduced Bill 27-35 (COR) that will require the timely publication of environmental violation notices and settlement agreements on the Guam Environmental Protection Agency's website and require regular reporting of these notices and agreements to the GEPA Board of Directors.

Bill 27-35 requires the online publication of Notices of Violations, Orders of Compliance, Notices of Defense, Voluntary Compliance Agreements, Settlement Agreements and Referrals to the Office of the Attorney General for Prosecution, allowing the public to follow the enforcement process from start to finish.

"By increasing agency transparency, we are prioritizing active participation by the public in their government and ultimately making agencies and their boards accountable for the level of enforcement that our entire community is depending on," said Terlaje. ***(PR)***

KIA
Introducing the
2019 KIA Sportage
with
$3,000 OFF
or $1,000
CASH BACK*
2019 KIA SEDONA
8 PASSENGER VAN
IN STOCK LX & EX TRIMS
Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU
Visit us at www.joetenmotors.com
Like us on Facebook
SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM - 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • See dealer for details • While Supplies last
2019 KIA SPORTAGE LX 2WD and 4WD $1,000 cashback on approved credit*. Offer ends January 31, 2019

Saipan Chamber of Commerce Silver Lining Gala

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

The nominees for the 2018 SCC Businessperson of the Year, from left, Gloria Cavanagh, John Hirsh, Glen Hunter, James Lee, Ron Smith, Velma Palacios, and Janice Tenorio.

From left, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresea K. Kim-Tenorio administers the oath of office of SCC board of directors Velma Palacios, Ty Pauling, Marcia Calvo, Shayne Villanueva, Perry Inos Jr., Janel Pangelinan, Joe Guerrero, and Alex Sablan.

The Chamber board of directors with Chamber executive director Maxine Laszlo, left.

Velma Palacios, left, gives a brief remark after receiving her 2018 Businessperson of the Year award while past winners, from left, Ivan Quichocho, Mike Sablan, Dave Sablan, Jim Arenovski, Vicky Benavente, Marcia Ayuyu, Jerry Tan, Ben Babauta, Wendi Herring, and Alex Sablan look on.

From left, former Office of the Governor chief of staff Matt Deleon Guerrero, Ivan Quichoho, and Alex Sablan enjoy a light conversation before the start of the program in last Saturday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce Silver Lining Gala at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

From left, Education Commissioner Glenn Muña with CNMI State Board of Education chair Janice Tenorio, IT&E CNMI general manager Rose Soledad, Chamber president Velma Palacios, and Taro Leaf's Ulysses Sabuco.

Shayne Villanueva, the 2018 Saipan Young Professional of Year, with MARPAC Beverage and Tobacco Division sales manager James Lee.

Angil Design Inc. creator Ron Smith and his wife don traditional Thai clothing.

Another Guam Guard Airman departs for deployment

One Airman, from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Force Support Squadron departed Saturday, Jan. 19, en route to a deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Southwest Asia.

Capt. Francine Cruz will be tasked to provide protocol services at her assigned location.

The Guard asks the public for their continued support of our Airmen and their families," said Maj. Gen. Leon Guerrero. "We still have other Airmen from the 254th Security Forces Squadron who are currently deployed or supporting missions around the world. Please keep them and these Airmen in your thoughts and prayers now as they prepare to deploy and for the duration of their deployment".

The remaining Airmen are scheduled to leave in the next few weeks and are scheduled to be deployed for approximately six months. ***(PR)***

MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS

Capt. Francine Cruz, standing 6th from right, from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Force Support Squadron, poses with leadership and other Guam Air National Guard Airmen, as she prepared to depart Friday, Jan. 19, en route to a deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

JRM, stakeholders begin Section 106 consultations

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas will start Section 106 consultations with stakeholders in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the 2009 Mariana Islands Range Complex Programmatic Agreement.

Consultations will occur in Guam at the following dates, times and locations:

■ Tuesday, Jan. 22 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm Daniel L. Perez Elementary School in Yigo

■ Wednesday, Jan. 23 from 4pm to 7pm Guam Museum multi-purpose room in Hagatna

In accordance with established processes and procedures required under the National Historic Preservation Act, this effort is aimed at ensuring open dialogue with stakeholders to develop a new MIRC PA.

In February, public meetings will be held where all interested individuals may engage directly with Navy environmental and cultural subject matter experts on the proposed supplement to the 2015 Mariana Islands Training and Testing environmental impact statement. More information will be shared with the community as soon as it is available.

Contact the JRM or NAVFAC Marianas Public Affairs Offices at 349-2113 or 349-4053, for more information. ***(PR)***

Fiji, Samoa, Solomons highlight increasing threat of pests and diseases for Pacific agriculture

SUVA, Fiji—The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and Pacific Community (SPC) met with national stakeholders from Samoa, Solomon Islands and Fiji this week to discuss the serious threat of pests and diseases for Pacific agriculture.

The meeting was an opportunity for the three participating countries to highlight the enormity of the pest and disease issue, and how it is impacting biosecurity and nutrition security efforts across the Pacific. Participants discussed the need to take a regional approach to research in order to improve agricultural and biosecurity approaches toward building a more resilient Pacific.

In her opening remarks, SPC deputy director general Dr. Audrey Aumua stated that the increasing number of agricultural pests and diseases was pushing farmers towards the use harmful pesticides and chemicals, which posed even more harmful environmental and health risks. She stressed the need to ensure that farmers had a full understanding of full range of safe adaptation and mitigation tools at their disposal.

Dr. Aumua also noted the risks to Pacific agriculture from climate change saying, 'Climate change is a major contributor to the increased threats of transboundary plant and animal pests, diseases and invasive species. Integrated approaches ensure the food and nutrition security of the people in the Pacific is not compromised.'

FAO's Climate Change officer Ana Tiraa echoed this view noting that climate change adds a layer of complexity to forecasting and controlling biosecurity risks and impacts. Tiraa highlighted that the primary drivers for the dynamics of plant and animal pests are weather and climate change. Yet, despite the increase in food pests and diseases in recent times and the devastation caused on food security, scant information is available regarding the impact of climate change on pests and diseases.

"Although the Pacific Islands are considered the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, it is clear that we need to better understand the problems and gaps in knowledge that exist, and significantly, how to address these problems," said Tiraa.

Based on the feedback provided at this meeting, along with other consultations across the region, SPC and the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme will develop a comprehensive initiative to improve national capacities to address climate change impacts on biosecurity and food security. ***(PR)***

Air Force to conduct training at Warning Area 13B and Warning Area 13C

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct open-water training at Warning Area 13B (W-13B) and Warning Area 13C (W-13C) from 11am to 3pm Jan. 23.

It is recommended the general public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-13B is activated at the coordinates 15° 46"N/146° 50"E. W-13C is activated at the coordinates 14° 54"N/146° 50"E.

Both areas will support non-live weapons release. All vessels are advised to remain clear of a 15- nautical mile radius of the coordinates provided.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

01/09/19
Amendment No. 1
Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
2014	CDBG	CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost 2014	NMHC	$193,092.20	($109,070.75)	N/A	$193,092.20
2015	CDBG	15 CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost	NMHC	$194,186.00	($64,936.74)	N/A	$194,186.00
2016	CDBG	16 CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost	NMHC	$196,969.20	(125,992.51)	$70,976.69	$196,969.20
			Total:		**($300,000.00)**		
2018	CDBG	Super Typhoon Yutu Debris Removal for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota	Saipan Mayors Office (New)		$250,000.00	N/A	N/A
2018	CDBG	Super Typhoon Yutu Debris Removal for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota	Tinian Mayors Office (New)		$25,000.00	N/A	N/A
2018	CDBG	Super Typhoon Yutu Debris Removal for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota	Rota Mayors Office (New)		$25,0000.00	N/A	N/A
			Total:		**$300,000.00**		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) requires our agency to publish a "Public Notice" on reprogramming of funds over $50,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before January 23, 2019, no later than 10 a.m. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 15

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

MAGA-hatted teens, a Native American and the peril of instant judgment

In an age of instant communication, quick responses usually take precedence over careful deliberation. Hot takes are valued; "cold takes" are not a thing. But truth can be a casualty when social media hordes leap to vent anger at bits of information that look offensive.

All this became apparent, not for the first time, when a video went viral showing a face-to-face encounter at the Lincoln Memorial between a 64-year-old Native American veteran and a high school boy wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat.

The impression left by the clip was of an arrogant white teenager harassing a person of color for the amusement of his rowdy classmates. The Native American man, Nathan Phillips, told reporters he felt threatened by the crowd of teens and heard chants of "Build the wall."

The storm of outrage that followed was something to behold. The students, a group from a Catholic boys' high school in Covington, Ky., who were in the capital for the March for Life, were denounced on Twitter as racist bullies who had no respect for their elders. Calls went out for the boy and his friends to be expelled and shamed. The archdiocese of Covington condemned the students' conduct, and the mayor disavowed it.

But the reaction turns out to be a cautionary tale about jumping to conclusions. Other videos of the gathering showed the students being subjected to nasty slurs by black protesters known as the Hebrew Israelites; the teens eventually countered with chants. It was Phillips who strode up close to the boy in the MAGA hat, singing and beating a drum. Robby Soave of Reason watched two hours of footage and didn't hear a single "build the wall."

The teenager, Nick Sandmann, who says he has gotten death threats, issued a statement giving his version. His classmates' chants were a response to the insults directed at them, after they got permission from an adult chaperone. Sandmann was "startled and confused" when Phillips approached him and thought that "by remaining motionless and calm, I was helping to diffuse (sic) the situation."

When one of his fellow students responded to one of the people with Phillips, he said, "I motioned to my classmate and tried to get him to stop engaging with the protestor, as I was still in the mindset that we needed to calm down tensions." A segment of one video appears to support Sandmann's account.

Was Sandmann's expression a smarmy smirk or a nervous smile? Was Phillips trying to calm the situation or confront some kids he regarded as Donald Trump followers? Were the students provoking antagonism or responding to it?

Even all the footage that has emerged leaves considerable room for disagreement. It's not hard to believe that Phillips and Sandmann each acted in a way he thought was responsible and constructive. It was obviously a messy, confus-

See MAGA on Next Page

It's THIS KIND of MAD DOG, FOAMING at the MOUTH. TOXIC MASCULINITY that MUST be STOPPED!!!
IT'S SHAVING CREAM, MORON!
GILLETTE
HITCH

The tears of black men weren't enough for Jason Van Dyke to get the sentence he deserved

By DAHLEEN GLANTON
Chicago Tribune

We rarely see a black man cry. Not in public, at least.

On the witness stand, with an audience of strangers watching, an African-American man broke down in tears. He held his head down and wept out loud.

It took many of us watching online by surprise. Black men aren't supposed to cry. Or so we've been told. Unlike the rest of us, they are devoid of emotion. They have no tears to shed.

Edward Nance broke the stereotype. The pain former police Officer Jason Van Dyke once inflicted on him was too fierce to hide. So he ripped off the mask that black men are forced to wear, revealing sensitivities that few imagine they have.

For the first time since Van Dyke murdered 17-year-old Laquan McDonald, we were able to see on the stand just how devastating a routine encounter with police can be for African-American men. We saw evidence of the torment and fear they carry every day.

During a traffic stop in 2007, Van Dyke pulled Nance out of his car and threw him facedown on the floor of the backseat. He dragged Nance to the squad car by his handcuffed hands, shouting profanities all the while.

The high school basketball and football referee suffered torn rotator cuffs on both arms and has undergone multiple surgeries. The physical damage was extensive, but it was the emotional damage on display in court.

It was obviously difficult for Nance to take the stand during Van Dyke's sentencing hearing Friday. Clearly, he would rather not have been in that room. He could barely look at the former policeman seated at the defense table in orange jail garb.

But we needed to see Nance's anguish. We needed him to prove that black men are indeed human beings. We needed him to show us that, when the mask came off, McDonald was just a scared teenager who should not have been killed.

We all knew that at the end of the day, the sentencing would come down to a single question: How much is the life of a black man worth

Nance and three other African-American men Van Dyke had harmed in his 14 years on the force implored Cook County Judge Vincent Gaughan to hold the disgraced police officer accountable, for once, in his long history of horrible deeds.

The judge listened, but clearly he did not hear them

What he heard apparently was the desperate voice of a 17-year-old girl begging him to restore her hope and bring her dad home. He heard the words of a letter written by her 12-year-old sister. "My dad and my family are really hurting, and I think we have hurt enough," she wrote. "I need my dad in my life."

A wife's cries for leniency spoke louder than a family's cries for justice. Her despair over going to bed at night without her husband at her side and the anguish over financial ruin took precedence over a mother whose grief kept her from entering the courtroom.

I will acknowledge that the slain teenager was not perfect, because that is what many need to hear. And I will express my sorrow for the hurt Van Dyke's wife and two daughters have suffered in the years since the shooting was revealed.

But their agony is not McDonald's fault. It is caused by the man they love so deeply.

I will reserve most of my sorrow for McDonald.

His great-uncle spoke for him in a letter read to the court. He reminded us that the teenager was a victim of murder, and that his family's imperfections were not adequate reasons to dismiss their boundless heartbreak.

The boy who had yet to become a man deserved a chance to see where his life would lead. His last paycheck from his construction job should not have been spent on a suit to wear in his casket and clothes for his mother and sister to wear to his funeral.

"I'm a real victim of murder and that can never be changed," read the letter written in McDonald's voice. "Please think about me and my life when you sentence this person to prison."

When all was said and done, the judge answered the question that has haunted African-Americans for centuries.

How much is a black man's life worth?

The pain and suffering of African-American men at the hands of police is worthless. And the debt for murdering a boy can be paid off in 81 months.

By handing down such a light sentence, Gaughan invalidated the courageous efforts of Nance and the other black men to bring the problem of police brutality to light. He reaffirmed the notion that black men are killed because they don't deserve to live.

McDonald deserved better than that. Every African-American man does.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Maliñgun Fondu

I maliñgun $14 Biyon pesus ginen Marianas guine gi alacha ha atisa manadan kuestion haye gai salape` yan haf` masusede. Lau finañagun maribahan ekonomia pot iran pagyu yan hiniyuñg inbetsionistas (investors) ginen Japon. Dopble maliñgun iya Marianas guine na biahe.

Komprendiyun mattirun iran pagyu lau makat hu komprende haf` umatisa hinanau inbetsionistan Japones. I finenina siña ta adelanta gi halum un` añu. I sigiente makat `sino ti siña pot madiñgu i tanu` yan fiñkas niha.

Hu huñgug na man-disganau i los probes ni mantai konsiderasion man-ma`gas gi usun palabra mina` man-inestotba seriosamente. Mahala maletan niha ya sige adumididi` huyuñg manmaudai gi ruplanu.

Sin ayudun Japones ginen metgut fiñkasña haf` futtuna-ta? Ha estotba-yu` pot guine gi mapus na semana mabende todu hotel niha Guam yan este kulan klaru na mensahen petmanente na sayonara`. Haf` mohon?

Guaha otru nasion ni fuetsudu fiñkasña para u ayuda Marianas umadelanta i bandan bisnis guine? Na ti magahet na sin adelantu guine na patte seru uttimoña ekonomian tano`ta? I Chinu siña man-offrese lau 1.2 biyon na tautau-ña debi una`fañochu diariu. Makat ayudun fiñkas ginen siha.

■■■

Fontun: I sumuha na $14 Biyon tumutun fontun `nos kuantos ahensia guine pot ti nahuñg man-mana`en niha para operasion. I hospitat yan PSS finenina man-lo`lu` taduñg pot fatsu na kantida maparada para usun niha.

I primera destrosiu gi maliñgun fondu i diskuidun heñiun banida gi halum man-ma`gas `nai ta dulalag inbetsionistan Japones guine. Mampus man-hamalefa hit haye fietmente manachu pot natibu deste mediu sisienta siha na sakan. Na ti Japones tumutuhun industrian turista guine?

Seriosamente, hafa guinahata na mampus i man-ma`gasta man-diskuidau sensian respetu? Adahe para un` aka` i kanai ni muna` chochochu hau! Ti konseptu i asuntu ya taya` ha nesessita sattun na inadahen relasion.

Kase kumu guaha dididi` kinemprenden ekonomia yan haf` fuetsan Japon gi enteru elmundu siña tana` silensiu mas i mañan banida. Pat gai salape` si Taga` para nesessidat-ta siha? Prisisu na ta fatta na man-malagresidu hit gi fitme na gachoñg-ta deste antes?

■■■

Pot fabot atan seriosamente haf` estau ekonomian i tanu` ya `in pesa haf` kinemprenden miyu gi maseha haf` na konbetsasion. Kumeke ileghu adahe haf` in` sasañgan piot gi konbetsa yan man-fuetsudu na inbetsionistas Japon. Respetu dibatde na asuntu lau sumen agradesiyun!

■■■

Ditension: I hinanau inbetsianistas Japon guine dañkulu siknifikasioña. Primera i maliñgun inañgog-hu appottunidat umadelanta industrian bisnis. Sin adelantun este na patte gi ekonomia-ta ti asegurau haf` mamamaila` para hita.

Finenina pumara mattu Japan Airlines, tinatiye ni mabenden Hotel Nikko. Gi mapus na semana mabende todu hotel niha giya Guam. Haf` siknifikasioña este na disision? Guaha `nai ta faisen i los probes haf` umafuetsas hinanau niha guine?

Mina` ha estotba-yu` sa` sin adelantu gi bisnis guine pues kontodu aduana siempre umaribaha seriosamente. Guaha tahgueña este na maliñgu fuera de gotden kotbatan Sears Roebuck? Haf` ineppen miyu nu este na maliñgu? Siempre dispues u anog haf` sustansiaña este `nai esta ma`pus ma`udaita ginen estasion bus.

■■■

Kanta: Guaha `nai hu ekuñgug ñaihon kantan Chamoru siha gi radio gi oran deskansog-hu. Todu klase guaha lau dos puntu `nai popoduñg sessu i mensahe: neni yan inappelan lañga` pot mayute`.

I primet, motmut kuentus pot "hagu o`lolo". Mientras mas marepite mas suspechosu i mansañgan. Kadu` "o'lolo" lau kada ratu ha rikonose si gayega. Chanseru! Hombre, ti nigap `nai mafañagu i kilisyanu! Haf` mohon?

Ga`oghu i tatatte pot guiya mismu muna` piniten maisague`. Ha fababa i hagan tautau ya dispues de trabut ya madulalag mañgge` kantaña na "haf`yu` bai chogue `an esta-yu` tiyamu". Diberas?

Un` kuestiotiona i malabidamu? Adahe na higadu para un` fababan maisa hau, pindehu! Tras esta tutuhu` lago`mu pot un` dagen maisa hau? Dios mihu na heñiu!

Haf` mohon ya tatutuhun man-mañgge` pot flores, sadog, asut tasi, pulan yan pution? Chage umestira fuetsan hinasso-mu pumega man-afagcha` na palabra yan mensahe guine siha na asuntu. Komprendiyun asuntun "neni" pot guiya i sentrun attension gi halum korason-ta. Lau dalai na insuttu dispues de un` talañga i prohima.

■■■

Disposision: Hu soda` un` amiguhu gi courtyard hospitat ume`efresku. Gai chinatsaga-yu` tumutuhun grasiosu na konbetsasion pot ti amtiyun i prohimu chenotña. Mamadedese mina gai minasa`-yu` umoffende i kilisyanu pot imbelekeru-hu.

Dispues de felisitasion hu sotta para guiya u tutuhun i konbetsa `an guaha asuntoña para u diskute. Ti listu-yu` lokue` umafuetsas, ginen fino`hu, na ha nesessita ayudu. Hu pega i asuntu enteramente giya guiya.

Kulan mohon matiges-yu` gi entalu` dos trosun achu` na sichuasion. Taya` prisisu na para baina` hassugue` ni pinadesisiña. Mamatkiluyu`! Adumididi` sige ha dagau chagu` i ha`aniña yan chenotña. "Listuyu` para disposision i Saina". Kontentuyu` ni hiniñgog-hu.

Brazil's Bolsonaro should abandon destructive Amazon deforestation idea

By ANDRES OPPENHEIMER
Miami Herald

Andres Oppenheimer is a Latin America correspondent for the Miami Herald, 3511 N.W. 91 Avenue, Doral, Fla. 33172; email: aoppenheimer@miamiherald.com.

Just as a new study says that ocean warming is much worse than previously thought, there are growing fears that Brazil's new president, Jair Bolsonaro, will further worsen global climate change by authorizing the Amazon's mass deforestation.

Bolsonaro's name came up during my interview with Zeke Hausfather, one of the leading authors of the recent Science magazine article warning that oceans are heating up 40 percent faster than a United Nations climate panel estimated five years ago.

The article, which warned that, among other things, ocean warming will accelerate sea-level rise and lead to stronger hurricanes, made headlines around the world in recent days.

When I asked Hausfather why oceans are warming faster than anticipated, he said that China is now burning about as much coal as the rest of the world combined. China and the United States are the world's leading polluters, with China taking the lead in recent years, he said.

But, looking forward, he said that there are growing fears that Brazil soon will become an additional problem if Bolsonaro follows through with his plan to allow commercial exploitation of big chunks of the Amazon.

Bolsonaro, an ultra-right-wing former congressman who took office Jan. 1 and likes to be portrayed as South America's Donald Trump, has made no bones about his skepticism of global warming.

During the campaign, he vowed to allow more agricultural and mining companies to work in the Amazon. He has also criticized environmental protection agencies and claimed that nongovernmental organizations are "suffocating" Brazil's economy.

Less than a month in office, Bolsonaro has made good on some of his promises. His newly appointed environment minister, Ricardo Salles, is the former legal director of the Brazil Rural Society, made up of agribusiness owners.

In one of his first executive decrees, Bolsonaro also transferred key regulatory powers overseeing commercial exploitation of the Amazon to the agriculture ministry, which is friendlier to the private sector than it is to agencies charged with protecting the environment and the rights of indigenous people.

In addition, Bolsonaro issued a decree asking his ministry of government to supervise non-governmental organizations. It is not yet clear whether that decree is limited to government-funded NGOs or extends to all such groups.

Hausfather told me that these and other actions could have a devastating impact on climate change.

"The potential is there that if Brazil really decides that they don't care about the rainforest at all, that they just want to turn it into farmland at all cost, it could really be a catastrophe," Hausfather said.

Until now, Brazil has been a model country when it comes to its environmental policies. It started converting car engines from gas to ethanol made from sugarcane decades ago, significantly reducing toxic fuel emissions. Also, it had significantly reduced the rate of deforestation of the Amazon.

If Bolsonaro authorizes more commercial exploitation of protected forests in the Amazon, such gains will quickly be eroded, Hausfather told me. The Amazon holds an immense amount of carbon in its trees, and burning Amazon forests would substantially increase the carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

"The world can certainly pressure Brazil," Hausfather said, adding that the international community can, for instance, link loans to the country's efforts to stop deforestation. "But at the end of the day, it's ultimately something that Brazil has to do itself, and we hope that the new government won't go down some of the paths they've suggested."

Problem is, Bolsonaro was elected with the backing of powerful rural business leaders who want to encroach into protected areas in the Amazon — and who have many backers in Brazil's congress. Bolsonaro, who does not have a majority in congress, may need those legislators to pass his overall economic policies.

Whatever he said during the campaign, Bolsonaro needs to face reality: Destroying the Amazon means destroying Brazil's future, and with it the world's climate.

MAGA

From Page 10

ing situation.

But a couple of clear lessons can be drawn. One is that it's dangerous to reach instant judgments based on images that lack context. Sometimes, video footage is invaluable in determining the truth. At other times, it makes something complicated look simple.

Another is that many Americans see their political opponents as not only mistaken but malicious, and are prone to interpret anything the other side does as damning. It's never been easy for people to see things from the point of view of those who disagree, and it's even tougher in this hyperpolarized moment.

Some people who were initially furious found themselves backtracking. "If the Covington Catholic incident was a test, it's one I failed," confessed Cincinnati writer Julie Irwin Zimmerman in The Atlantic. Conservative commentator S.E. Cupp tweeted, "I wish I'd had the fuller picture before weighing in, and I'm truly sorry."

Next time an upsetting video or photo goes viral, maybe some observers will wait to learn more before forming strong opinions. Sure, you can rush to judgment and tweet "Gotcha!" to your foes. But doing justice takes time.

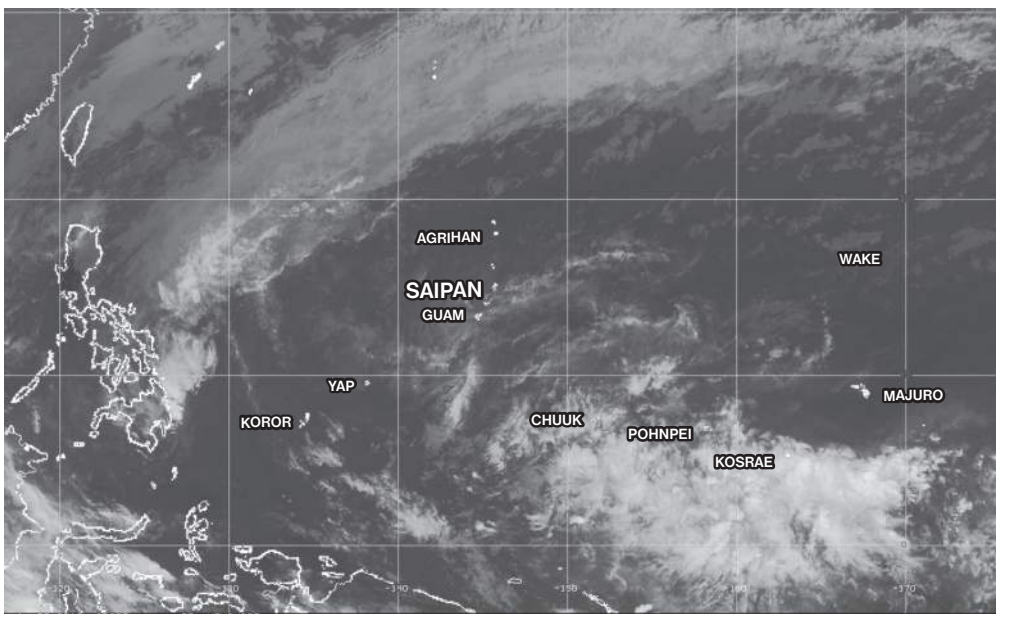
©2019 Chicago Tribune

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly sunny with isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:21 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Clouds moved back in, so raised the cloud cover the next 3 periods. Otherwise, just refreshed the winds and waves, which caused little change in the forecast, also had the effect of extending them. Had to recalculate the wind wave and wind gust grids also. Again, no major changes occurred. The main story is that early next week, another big shear line is coming down. This will raise winds and waves and cause another round or two of scattered showers.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Majuro	Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Rain	73° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	43° / 21°
Hong Kong	Sunny	66° / 61°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	83° / 68°
London	Mostly Sunny	39° / 30°
Los Angeles	Sunny	69° / 48°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	99° / 82°
Miami	Windy	77° / 73°
New York	Rain	45° / 43°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 36°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	39° / 28°
Busan	Sunny	48° / 34°
Rome	Showers	46° / 37°
Salem	Rain	67° / 43°
San Francisco	Sunny	58° / 46°
Seoul	Sunny	37° / 19°
Tokyo	Sunny	48° / 36°
Washington, DC	Rain	49° / 47°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:11 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.71
10:06 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.12
3:45 PM	LOW TIDE	1.05
8:42 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.07

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:11 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:12 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:25 AM	8:23 PM
Thursday	-	9:16 AM	9:24 PM
Friday	-	10:04 AM	10:22 PM
Saturday	-	10:49 AM	11:18 PM
Sunday	-	11:32 AM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

World economy forecast to slow in 2019 amid trade tensions

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—The world economy absorbed more bad news Monday: The International Monetary Fund cut its growth forecast for 2019. And China, the world's second-biggest economy, said it had slowed to its weakest pace since 1990.

The IMF cut its estimate for global growth this year to 3.5 percent, from the 3.7 percent it had predicted in October and down from 2018′s 3.7 percent. The fund cited heightened trade tensions and rising interest rates.

"After two years of solid expansion, the world economy is growing more slowly than expected and risks are rising," said IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde as she presented the forecasts at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

The IMF is not alone in its pessimism. The World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other forecasters have also downgraded their world growth estimates.

Among the key concerns is the Chinese economy. The country is slowing just as its leadership tries to turn it into a more modern economy by reducing its reliance on manufacturing and exports and increasing consumer spending.

The country reported Monday growth of 6.6 percent in 2018, the weakest since 1990. Demand for Chinese exports weakened last year and the IMF expects China's growth to decelerate again this year—to 6.2 percent.

AP
International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde briefs the media during a news conference at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum, WEF, in Davos, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019.

The IMF left its prediction for U.S. growth this year unchanged at 2.5 percent—though a continuation of the partial 31-day shutdown of the federal government poses a risk.

The IMF trimmed the outlook for the 19 countries that use the euro as their currency to 1.6 percent from 1.8 percent. Germany got a big downgrade from the IMF, the result of weaker demand for German exports and problems in the country's auto industry.

Britain's messy divorce from the European Union and Italy's ongoing financial struggles also pose threats to growth in Europe.

Emerging-market countries are forecast to slow to 4.5 percent from 4.6 percent in 2018. That is partly a result of China's deceleration, which pinches developing countries that supply it with raw materials such as copper and iron ore.

"China's growth slowdown could be faster than expected especially if trade tensions continue, and this can trigger abrupt sell-offs in financial and commodity markets"—something that happened when Chinese growth sputtered in 2015, said IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath.

Under President Donald Trump the United States has imposed import taxes on steel, aluminum and hundreds of Chinese products, drawing retaliation from China and other U.S. trading partners.

"Higher trade uncertainty will further dampen investment and disrupt global supply chains," Gopinath said.

Rising interest rates in the U.S. and elsewhere are also pinching emerging-market governments and companies that borrowed heavily when rates were ultra-low in the aftermath of the 2007-2009 Great Recession.

As the debts roll over, those borrowers have to refinance at higher rates. A rising dollar is also making things harder for emerging-market borrowers who took out loans denominated in the U.S. currency.

TSA screener sick-outs hit 10 percent over holiday weekend

The percentage of TSA airport screeners missing work has hit 10 percent as the partial government shutdown stretches into its fifth week.

The Transportation Security Administration said Monday that Sunday's absence rate compared to 3.1 percent on the comparable Sunday a year ago.

The workers who screen passengers and their bags face missing another paycheck if the shutdown doesn't end early this week. According to TSA, many of them say the financial hardship is preventing them from reporting to work.

TSA says the national average waiting time in airport checkpoint lines is within the normal limit of 30 minutes, but there are longer lines at some airports.

The agency has dispatched extra screeners to airports in Atlanta, LaGuardia Airport in New York, and Newark, New Jersey. A TSA spokesman said other airports might also be getting additional help.

Sunday's 10 percent absence rate indicates that more than 3,000 airport screeners missed work. TSA has 51,000 screeners, and a spokesman said that about 33,000 work on any given day. That topped the previous high of 8 percent on Saturday.

With fewer screeners, TSA closed one of its security checkpoints at Baltimore/Washington airport over the weekend, reopened it, but closed it again Monday afternoon, according to an airport spokeswoman.

A checkpoint at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport remained closed. An airport spokesman said lines were relatively short at the other six checkpoints.

TSA appeared to be managing the high sick-out rate as well as could be expected. The agency said that on Sunday it screened 1.78 million passengers, and only 6.9 percent—roughly 120,000 people—had to wait 15 minutes or longer to get through security.

No figures were yet available for Monday, but websites or spokespeople for several major airports including Dallas-Fort Worth and Chicago's O'Hare reported normal security lines and few problems. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, which had some of the longest lines in the country last week, reported waits of 15 to 30 minutes at domestic-travel checkpoints Monday. Los Angeles International Airport showed most lines under 20 minutes.

UK leader unveils Brexit Plan B, looks a lot like Plan A

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Theresa May unveiled her Brexit Plan B on Monday—and it looks a lot like Plan A.

May launched a mission to resuscitate her rejected European Union divorce deal, setting out plans to get it approved by Parliament after securing changes from the EU to a contentious Irish border measure.

May's opponents expressed incredulity: British lawmakers last week dealt the deal a resounding defeat, and EU leaders insist they won't renegotiate it.

Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn of the Labour Party accused May of being in "deep denial" about her doomed deal.

"This really does feel a bit like 'Groundhog Day,'" he said, referring to the 1993 film starring Bill Murray, in which a weatherman is fated to live out the same day over and over again.

Outlining what she plans to do after her EU divorce deal was rejected by Parliament last week, May said that she had heeded lawmakers' concerns over an insurance policy known as the "backstop" that is intended to guarantee there are no customs checks along the border between EU member Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland after Brexit.

May told the House of Commons that she would be "talking further this week to colleagues ... to consider how we might meet our obligations to the people of Northern Ireland and Ireland in a way that can command the greatest possible support in the House.

"And I will then take the conclusions of those discussions back to the EU."

The bloc insists that it won't renegotiate the withdrawal agreement.

"She is wasting time calling for a revision or clarification over the backstop," said German politician Udo Bullmann, head of the socialist group in the European Parliament.

While May stuck doggedly to her deal, she also acknowledged that control over Brexit wasn't entirely in her hands. She noted that lawmakers will be able to amend her plan when it comes to a vote in the House of Commons on Jan. 29, exactly two months before Britain is due to leave the EU.

Groups of "soft Brexit"-backing lawmakers—who want to keep close economic ties to the bloc—are planning to use amendments to try to rule out a "no-deal" Brexit and make May ease her insistence that leaving the EU means quitting its single market and customs union.

Britain and the EU sealed a divorce deal in November after months of tense negotiations. But the agreement has been rejected by both sides of Britain's divide over Europe. Brexit-backing lawmakers say it will leave the U.K. tethered to the bloc's rules and unable to forge an independent trade policy. Pro-Europeans argue it is inferior to the frictionless economic relationship Britain currently enjoys as an EU member.

After her deal was thrown out last week by a crushing 432-202 vote in Parliament, May said she would consult with lawmakers from all parties to find a new way forward.

But Corbyn called the cross-party meetings a "stunt," and other opposition leaders said the prime minister didn't seem to be listening.

On Monday, May rejected calls from pro-EU lawmakers to delay Britain's departure from the bloc or to hold a second referendum on whether to leave.

In a nod to opposition parties' concerns, she promised to consult lawmakers, trade unionists, business groups and civil society organizations "to try to find the broadest possible consensus" on future ties between Britain and the EU, and said the government wouldn't water down protections for the environment and workers' rights after Brexit.

May also said the government had decided to waive a 65 pound ($84) fee for EU citizens in Britain who want to stay permanently after Brexit.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
24,706.35	2,670.71	7,157.23
+499.19	+34.75	+72.76
+2.06%	+1.32%	+1.03%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4007	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8461	Russian Ruble	66.3351
British Pound	0.7762	Indian Rupee	70.6084	Singapore Dollar	1.3606
Canadian Dollar	1.3314	Japanese Yen	109.40	South Korean Won	1110.76
Chinese Yuan	6.6819	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0864	Swiss Franc	0.9983
Euro	0.8802	New Zealand Dollar	1.4867	Taiwan Dollar	30.3773
		Philippine Peso	51.8658	Thailand Baht	31.7785

Nation

Frigid air, high winds sweep the Northeast; at least 7 dead

AP

Marvin Hooks wears a face mask to protect him from the cold as he walks on North Street in Pittsfield, Mass., Monday, Jan. 21, 2019.

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—Falling temperatures replaced the weekend's falling snow Monday as bitter cold and gusty winds swept across the eastern United States.

The National Weather Service had forecast that temperatures would be more than 20 degrees below normal across the Northeast, with wind gusts up to 30 mph (48 kph) and wind chills approaching minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 40 degrees Celsius) in northern New York and Vermont.

Those wind gusts caused flight disruptions at LaGuardia Airport in New York City on Monday and FlightAware reported hundreds of delayed flights. And after a few weather-related delays Sunday, Amtrak restored all scheduled service Monday.

Atop the Northeast's highest mountain, the temperature fell to minus 23 degrees (minus 31 Celsius) Monday morning and dropped to minus 31 (minus 35 Celsius) later in the afternoon, according to the Facebook page for Mount Washington Observatory, in New Hampshire. Wind chills were hovering around minus 80 (minus 62 Celsius).

In New York, Coast Guard crews moved quickly to rescue a 21-year-old man left stranded on an island in the Navensink River after his small boat broke down. The Coast Guard said two members waded through 34-degree (1 Celsius) water to bring the man to safety. The air temperature was 7 degrees (minus 14 Celsius) with 30 mph wind.

The weather contributed to multiple deaths over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend.

In suburban Chicago, the temperature was about 14 degrees (minus 10 Celsius) Sunday when a 12-year-old girl died after a snow fort collapsed on her. Police in Arlington Heights, Illinois, said Esther Jung had been playing with another girl outside Rothem Church. Their families began looking for them about an hour later and found them under the snow. The younger girl survived.

In Connecticut, a utility company subcontractor died Sunday after being struck by a falling tree while working on a power line in Middletown. Thousands of homes and businesses in Connecticut remained without power Monday afternoon as temperatures dropped below zero in some locations.

"This is a reminder of the danger these men and women face on our behalf," Gov. Ned Lamont said in a tweet. "While many are still out there working today, please join me in acknowledging them and sending our thoughts to this person's family."

In Kansas, a snowplow driver was killed when the plow drove onto the shoulder of a road and rolled over, throwing him under the vehicle. It wasn't clear why the driver had moved to the shoulder from the roadway.

Shutdown and disunity themes of MLK celebration in Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP)—A commemorative service for Martin Luther King Jr. that was nearly imperiled by the federal government shutdown was held Monday morning in Atlanta at a church called King's "spiritual home."

King's daughter, the Rev. Bernice King, said in her remarks that the annual service at Ebenezer Baptist Church came during a moment of crisis in America. She condemned the gridlock and partisanship in Washington that led to the shutdown.

"Our humanity is literally on the verge of digressing to two Americas and becoming the dis-United State of America," she said.

King also slammed what she called "the powerful resurgence of nationalistic and white supremacist ideologies" around the world.

The event was attended by Republican U.S. Sen. David Perdue, Democratic Congresswoman Lucy McBath, and Emma Gonzalez, a survivor of the mass shooting at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, in February.

The site of the annual service, Ebenezer Baptist Church, sits amid the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park in the "Sweet Auburn" neighborhood of Atlanta. The civil rights leader was co-pastor with his father at the church from 1960 until his assassination in 1968.

The park was closed amid the government shutdown until Delta Air Lines gave the National Park Service a grant to reopen the site. Delta is headquartered in Atlanta.

In a statement posted to LinkedIn, Delta CEO Ed Bastian said the grant would keep the sites open from Jan. 19 to Feb. 3, the day of the upcoming Super Bowl game in Atlanta.

"These historic landmarks represent the strength of our community and should always be made available for the public to enjoy," Bastian said.

Perdue, who is white, recounted growing up in Georgia during segregation and praised King as an inspiring leader who changed the world through courage.

"He gave us hope during some of this country's darkest days," Perdue said of King. "Our country has overcome a lot, but there is much left to be done."

Ebenezer Church's current pastor, the Rev. Raphael G. Warnock, also took aim at the government shutdown, calling this "a time of narrow vision and petty politicians."

Gonzalez sat just behind the speaker's podium throughout much of the televised and livestreamed service, a highly visible position for the high school student turned gun-control activist. She said that King had paved the wave for future generations of peaceful protests.

ACROSS THE NATION

Teachers union: Los Angeles strike to go into 6th school day

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Teachers in the nation's second-largest school district are expected to strike for a sixth school day Tuesday as talks between Los Angeles Unified and United Teachers Los Angeles continue. The union said Monday that teachers are due back at picket lines Tuesday morning even if an agreement is reached Monday, saying it takes time to mobilize a ratification vote of a deal. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti remained upbeat as he mediated the fifth day of marathon negotiations at City Hall on Monday. "The parties are still at the table, and I am optimistic that we have the momentum to take those final steps toward bringing our teachers and young people back into their classrooms," he said in a statement.

Police: 1 person killed at Illinois mall, shooter at large

ORLAND PARK, Ill. (AP)—Authorities say a man was shot and killed at a suburban Chicago mall and the suspect remains at large. Orland Park Deputy Police Chief Joseph Mitchell says the 19-year-old was shot in the center of Orland Square Mall and ran away before collapsing outside a clothing store Monday evening. The man later died at the hospital. Mitchell says security video showed the shooter fleeing the mall but it's unclear if the suspect continued on foot or got into a vehicle. He calls the shooting an "isolated incident," saying video shows the two people involved knew each other and that the victim was "targeted." Police departments from several neighboring towns responded to the mall about 20 miles (32.2 kilometers) southwest of Chicago

Man linked to 4 killings suspected of being in US illegally

RENO, Nevada (AP)—Authorities investigating four recent Nevada killings say murder charges are pending against a man suspected of being in the U.S. illegally. Wilbur Martinez-Guzman, 20, was arrested Saturday in Carson City and is being held on possession of stolen property, burglary and immigration charges. Authorities say they expect to file murder charges against him in the coming days in the shooting deaths of an elderly Reno couple and two women who lived near the town of Gardnerville. Carson City Sheriff Ken Furlong said at a Sunday news conference that federal immigration authorities told his office Martinez-Guzman had lived in Carson City for about a year and was in the country illegally. Furlong said Monday he didn't know where Martinez-Guzman is originally from, and a message left with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was not immediately returned. President Donald Trump mentioned the killings Monday in a tweet calling for his long-promised border wall.

Asia

More sexual abuse claims rock South Korean skating

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—More South Korean female skaters are accusing their coaches of sexually abusing them, a group representing the athletes disclosed Monday following claims by two-time Olympic champion Shim Suk-hee that her former coach had repeatedly raped her.

The announcement came amid a growing #MeToo movement in South Korea's elite sports scene, which has been notorious for a brutal training culture and highly hierarchical relationships between coaches and athletes.

In addition to Shim, female athletes in judo, taekwondo and wrestling have also accused their male coaches of sexually abusing them. Members of the country's silver medal-winning Olympic curling team, cheered as the Garlic Girls for their hometown's famed produce, have accused their former coaches of verbal abuse and holding back prize money.

In a news conference at South Korea's parliament, a group called Solidarity for Young Skaters said five other skaters had been sexually abused by their coaches. The group didn't reveal any names, citing privacy worries.

AP

Jeon Myeong-gyu, a former vice chairman of Korea Skating Union, speaks during a news conference in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019.

Lawmaker Sohn Hye-won, who appeared in the same news conference, said one of the alleged victims said she was repeatedly groped as a teen by a coach while training at the Korea National Sport University, a powerhouse in producing Olympic athletes.

The skater said the unidentified coach would forcibly hug and kiss her and verbally abused her after she rejected his advances, Sohn said.

Sohn also called for an investigation into former national team coach Jeon Myeong-gyu, who is somewhat of a godfather figure in South Korean skating. Currently a professor at KNSU, Jeon has long been accused of nepotism for favoring athletes and coaches from the school in international competition and is now under suspicion of pressuring victims in order to cover up sex crimes committed by coaches he taught.

"There has been frequent sexual abuse in the skating scene, but the offenders in most cases did not receive punishment; that's because the coaches were members of the KNSU circle led by Professor Jeon Myeong-gyu," said Sohn, adding that the victims are afraid they'll face retaliation if they come forward with their claims.

Jeon later said at a separate news conference that he feels sorry for Shim and didn't know she was abused. He denied that he attempted to cover up abusive conduct by his students.

"There's no way for me to know about every act of sexual violence that takes place. I am not in a position to know that much," he said.

Sohn and the skaters' group also urged Korean Sport and Olympic Committee President Lee Kee-heung and other officials to step down for failing to safeguard athletes. The committee said it plans to launch a special committee to investigate abuse across sports and create new rules to protect athletes.

Experts say abusive treatment of female athletes has long been a problem in South Korean elite sports, which are often run by men. Athletes must live in dormitories, where coaches often exercise overbearing control, and they skip school from a young age in order to perform well at athletic events, leaving them with less education and career choices, which makes it harder for them to resist unjust treatment, critics say.

South Korea has associated Olympic achievements with national pride, and the problems regarding training cultures have often been overlooked as long as the athletes succeed.

But the pressure for change is now coming from a younger generation of athletes, led by Shim, who won two gold medals in women's short-track speed skating in the 2018 and 2014 Winter Olympics.

Shim earlier this month accused her former coach, Cho Jae-beom, of repeatedly raping her since she was 17.

Cho was fired as the national team coach shortly before the Pyeongchang Olympics last year and is now serving a 10-month prison term for physically assaulting athletes, including Shim. Cho's lawyers said he denies sexually assaulting Shim.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tokyo court rejects Ex-Nissan chair Ghosn's bail request

TOKYO (AP)—A court in Tokyo on Tuesday rejected former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn's latest request for bail, made more than two months after his arrest. The decision by the Tokyo District Court came a day after Ghosn promised to wear an electronic monitoring ankle bracelet, give up his passport and pay for security guards approved by prosecutors to gain release from a Tokyo detention center. The court announced its decision in a written statement. Ghosn, 64, has been in custody since Nov. 19. He was due for a bail hearing Monday. A Tokyo court rejected an earlier request for bail last week. His lawyers were expected to appeal the decision, as they have earlier rejections of Ghosn's requests to get out of detention. Ghosn, who led Nissan Motor Co. for two decades, has been charged with falsifying financial reports, in underreporting his compensation from Nissan over eight years, and with breach of trust, centering on allegations Ghosn had Nissan shoulder investment losses and pay a Saudi businessman. Ghosn says he is innocent as the compensation was never decided, Nissan didn't suffer losses and the payment was for legitimate services.

Taliban attack Afghan military base, killing 12

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A Taliban assault on a military base and police training center in a province just outside the Afghan capital on Monday killed at least 12 people and wounded more than 30, officials said. Salem Asgherkhail, head of the area's public health department, said most of those killed in the attack in Maidan Wardak province were military personnel. Some of the wounded were taken to local hospitals for treatment while the more serious cases were sent to the capital, Kabul. Nasrat Rahimi, deputy spokesman for the interior minister, said a suicide car bomber struck the base before insurgents opened fire. Sharifullah Hotak, a provincial council member, said four attackers took part in the assault after the bombing, all of whom were killed in the ensuing gunbattle. Hotak said it was a training base for new recruits from the area. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement to the media.

Indian police investigate suspected people smuggling to NZ

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police in southern India are investigating a suspected attempt to illegally transport scores of Indians on an overcrowded boat to New Zealand. The additional superintendent of police in Kerala state said police were questioning people who failed to board the fishing boat, who said it left nine days ago for New Zealand. Sojan, who uses one name, said police began investigating when they found dozens of abandoned bags containing dried fruit and "everything needed for a sea journey" near the harbor in Kochi in Kerala state. "The boat is gone, that's for sure," he said by telephone Monday. Police believe the fishing boat was so overcrowded that people had to leave their luggage behind. Sojan said it was unclear where the boat might be. "We have not been able to trace the boat so far, no radio connection, no radar, nothing is coming out," Sojan said. "It was a fishing boat, not a passenger boat. The boat had been purchased just for this purpose." He said no arrests had been made.

China says doctor behind gene-edited babies acted on his own

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese investigators have determined that the doctor behind the reported birth of two babies whose genes had been edited in hopes of making them resistant to the AIDS virus acted on his own and will be punished for any violations of the law, a state media report said Monday.

Investigators in the southern province of Guangdong determined Dr. He Jiankui organized and handled funding for the experiment without outside assistance in violation of national guidelines, the Xinhua News Agency said.

Along with the birth of the twins, another embryo yet to be born reportedly resulted from He's experiment. All three will remain under medical observation with regular visits supervised by government health departments, Xinhua said.

It didn't say which laws He might have violated but said he had fabricated an ethical review by others.

"This behavior seriously violates ethics and the integrity of scientific research, is in serious violation of relevant national regulations and creates a pernicious influence at home and abroad," the report said.

Then little-known, He attended an elite meeting in Berkeley, California, in 2017 where scientists and ethicists were discussing a technology that had shaken the field to its core—an emerging tool for "editing" genes, the strings of DNA that form the blueprint of life.

He embraced the tool, called CRISPR, and last year rocked an international conference with the claim that he had helped make the world's first gene-edited babies , despite a clear scientific consensus that making genetic changes that could be passed to future generations should not be attempted at this point.

China called an immediate halt to He's experiments following his announcement.

Gene editing for reproductive purposes is effectively banned in the U.S. and most of Europe. In China, ministerial guidelines prohibit embryo research that "violates ethical or moral principles."

The chief of the World Health Organization said last year his agency is assembling experts to consider the health impact of gene editing.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said gene editing "cannot be just done without clear guidelines" and experts should "start from a clean sheet and check everything."

"We have a big part of our population who say, 'Don't touch,'" Tedros told reporters. "We have to be very, very careful, and the working group will do that."

World

Israel increasingly goes public with its strikes in Syria

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel on Monday claimed responsibility for a series of airstrikes on Iranian military targets in Syria, drifting further away from its longstanding policy of playing down or covering up its military activities in the war-torn country.

For years, Israel has remained largely silent about its attacks against Iran and its Shiite proxies operating in neighboring Syria. But in recent weeks, military and political leaders have become increasingly outspoken about these activities.

This policy appears to be aimed at sending a message to key players in Syria, including President Bashar Assad and Russia, that Iran's continued presence there risks triggering even tougher and potentially destabilizing Israeli action.

"Whoever tries to harm us, we will harm them. Whoever threatens to destroy us will bear the full responsibility," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday.

But it also risks heating up the atmosphere between the bitter enemies. Iran's air force chief, for instance, said his forces are "ready for a fight."

Israel considers Iran to be its greatest enemy, and as Syria's civil war winds down, it has repeatedly warned that it will not allow Iranian troops—who have been fighting alongside Assad's forces—to maintain a permanent presence in postwar Syria.

While Israel has largely stayed out of the fighting in Syria, it has carried out scores of airstrikes on suspected Iranian arms shipments to the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which is also fighting alongside Assad's troops. With few exceptions, Israel has maintained a policy of ambiguity, neither confirming nor denying the airstrikes.

That changed earlier this month when Israel's outgoing military chief, Lt. Gen. Gadi Eisenkot, told the New York Times that Israel had struck "thousands of targets without claiming responsibility or asking for credit" as part of his showdown with Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the commander of Iran's elite Quds Force. Days later, Netanyahu acknowledged striking "hundreds" of Iranian and Hezbollah targets.

In the latest violence, the Israeli military announced Monday that it had struck a series of Iranian targets, including munition storage facilities, an intelligence site and a military training camp, in response to an Iranian missile attack a day earlier.

Israel said the missile, fired by Iranian forces in Syria, was intercepted over a ski resort on the Golan Heights and that there were no injuries. The Iranian launch followed a rare Israeli daylight air raid near the Damascus International Airport.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Monday's predawn strikes lasted for nearly an hour and were the most intense Israeli attacks since May. It said 11 were killed. The Russian military said four Syrian troops were among those killed. There were no further details on the casualties or their nationalities.

Speaking to reporters, Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, an Israeli military spokesman, said the Israeli use of ambiguity hadn't changed. He said that the Iranian missile strike, aimed at Israeli civilian areas, was a special case that required a public and powerful response, and that Israel had reacted similarly to previous Iranian provocations in February and May.

He also said that Israel had sent warnings to Syria ahead of the attack to refrain from attacking Israeli warplanes, but that Syria ignored those warnings and fired anti-aircraft missiles. He said Israel responded by destroying Syrian anti-aircraft batteries.

Others, however, said the shift in Israeli policy is clear.

AP

This photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, shows missiles flying into the sky near international airport, in Damascus, Syria, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019.

Venezuela quells soldiers' revolt, top court blasts congress

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela plunged deeper into turmoil Monday as security forces put down a pre-dawn uprising by national guardsmen that triggered violent street protests, and the Supreme Court moved to undercut the opposition-controlled congress' defiant new leadership.

Socialist party chief Diosdado Cabello said 27 guardsmen were arrested and more could be detained as the investigation unfolds.

The mutiny struck at a time when opposition leaders have regained momentum in their efforts to oust President Nicolas Maduro. They have called for a nationwide demonstration Wednesday, urging Venezuelans—especially members of the armed forces—to abandon Maduro.

The uprising triggered protests in a poor neighborhood just a few miles (kilometers) from Venezuela's presidential palace. It was dispersed with tear gas as residents set fire to a barricade of trash and chanted demands that Maduro leave power.

The military said in a statement said that it had recovered all the weapons and captured those involved in what it described as "treasonous" acts motivated by "obscure interests tied to the far right."

It said at around 2:50 a.m. (06:50 GMT), a small group of guardsmen took captive a captain in charge of a police station in western Caracas and then moved across the capital in two military trucks to the poor neighborhood of Petare, where they stole a cache of weapons from another outpost.

Officials said 25 soldiers were quickly caught at the National Guard outpost 3 kilometers (2 miles) from the Miraflores presidential palace, and two more arrests were made at another location.

A few hours earlier, a group of heavily armed national guardsmen published a series of videos on social media saying they won't recognize Maduro's government, which has come under increasing domestic and international pressure over a newly begun second term that the opposition-controlled congress and many nations consider illegitimate.

In one of the videos, a man identifying himself as 3rd Sgt. Alexander Bandres Figueroa, addressing the "people of Venezuela," urges his compatriots to take to the streets to show support for their rebellion.

"You asked to take to the streets to defend the constitution, well here we are," he said in a video shot at night in which several heavily armed men and a national guard truck can be seen in the background.

"You wanted us to light the fuse, so we did. We need your support," he added.

At daybreak in the adjacent neighborhood of Cotiza, a group of shirtless young men, some with their faces covered, built a barricade across the street with a burning car, heavy sewer grates and a large chunk of concrete.

An angry group of women shouted that they have lived for too long without running water and tear gas fired by security forces choked their children.

"Freedom! Freedom!" they chanted. "Maduro has to go!"

"We must defend our homeland," Maria Fernanda Rodriguez, a 36-year-old manicurist, told The Associated Press, her eyes welling from the tear gas.

Hours later, the government-stacked Supreme Court said it was throwing out recent measures by the National Assembly that declared Maduro's presidency illegitimate, deepening a standoff with the opposition-controlled legislature.

Zimbabwe's president returns amid economic crisis, crackdown

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa arrived in Harare late Monday after cutting short his fund-raising trip in order to address the country's economic crisis and crackdown.

Mnangagwa was welcomed at Harare International Airport by Vice President Constantino Chiwenga, former army commander who was in charge during the president's week-long absence and when the government launched a widespread clampdown in which 12 people were killed, more shot by troops and others dragged from their homes and beaten, according to human rights groups.

Mnangagwa hugged Chiwenga and chatted with him on the runway for 15 minutes. The president then told state broadcasting that his trip to Russia and Kazakhstan was fruitful and will benefit Zimbabwe in the long run. During his trip Mnangagwa met with Russian President Vladimir Putin and asked him for a loan.

Earlier Monday the government intensified its crackdown on dissent by charging the leader of the country's largest labor organization with subversion, as the courts ruled that the shutdown of the internet was illegal.

Zimbabwe police arrested Japhet Moyo, secretary general of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, and charged him with subversion for his role in organizing last week's national strike.

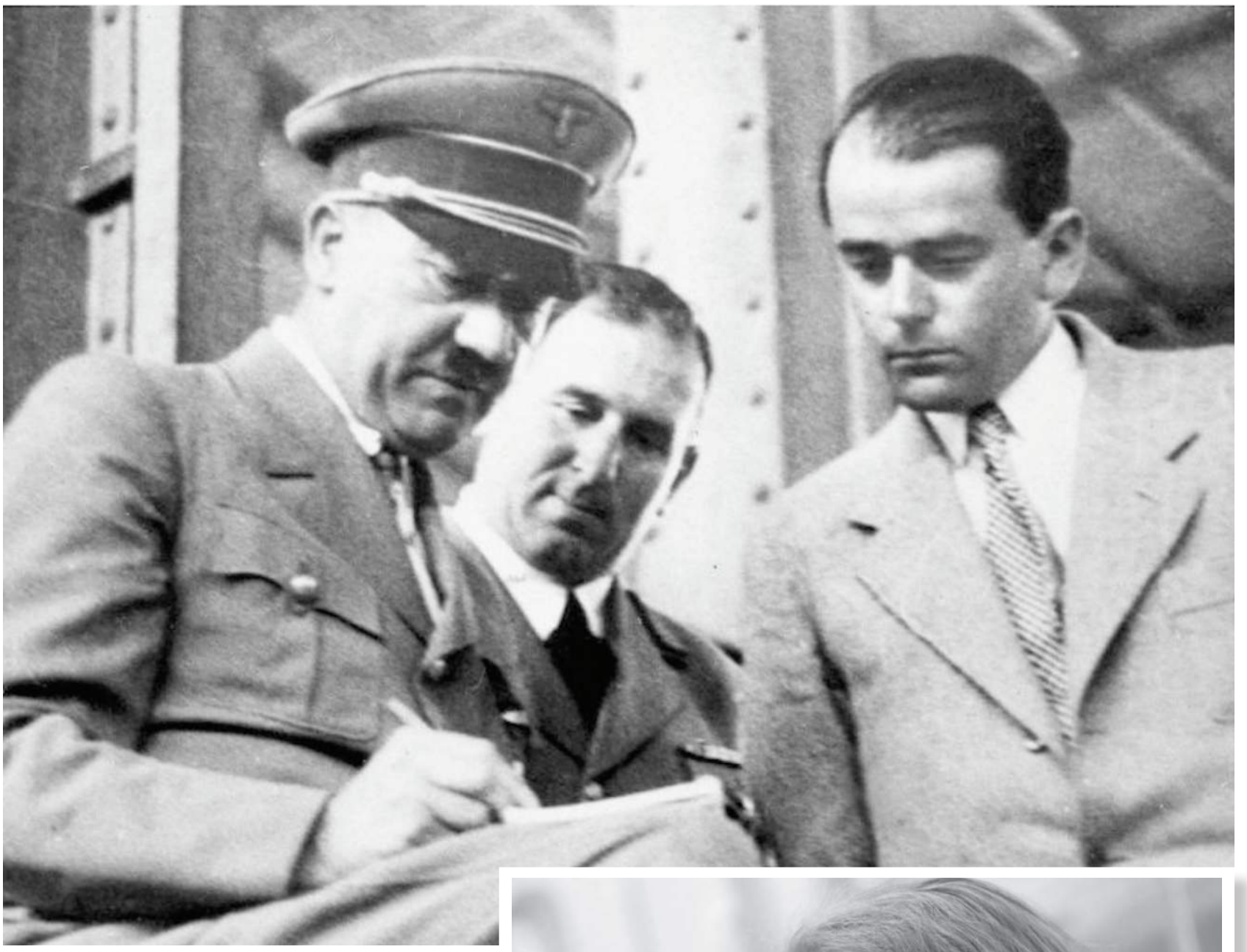
The arrest and Mnangagwa's return come after a week of turmoil. During the strike, some people went onto the streets to protest the government's drastic increase in fuel prices. The government said the demonstrations degenerated into riots, prompting it to launch a sweeping wave of repression. Security forces opened fire on crowds, wounding many bystanders, and went house to house in some neighborhoods, beating up many men, according to witnesses.

The government also imposed an internet blackout across the country. On Monday Zimbabwe's High Court ordered the government to restore full internet to the country. The shutdown of the internet was illegal because the Minister of State for Security, who ordered the internet closure, does not have powers to issue such a directive, said the court ruling. Only President Emmerson Mnangagwa has the authority to make such an order, said the court. Over the weekend the government restored partial internet access, but kept a blackout on social media apps like Facebook, Whatsapp and Twitter. The government alleges the internet has been used to organize violent demonstrations.

Focus

Reinvented legacy: Nazi's paintings fund foundation for Jews

By DAVID RISING
ASSOCIATED PRESS



In this file photo dated Feb. 19, 1937, German Chancellor Adolf Hitler, left, discusses plans for building a convention hall at Nuremberg with Lord Mayor Willy Liebel, centre, and Prof. Albert Speer, right, at Nuremberg, Germany. AP

Hilde Schramm attends a news conference in Berlin on Monday, Jan. 21, 2019. AP

BERLIN (AP)—When Hilde Schramm inherited several paintings collected by her father, Hitler's chief architect and Armaments Minister Albert Speer, she was only sure of one thing: she didn't want them.

Despite determining they probably hadn't been looted from Jews during World War II, she wanted their legacy to somehow benefit others. So she huddled with friends around a rickety green table at her home-office in Berlin and came up with a plan to sell them and use the proceeds to support Jewish women's creative projects in Germany.

In 1994, that became the Zurueckgeben foundation, a project for which Schramm received an Obermayer German Jewish History Award on Monday. The honor was established by an American Jewish philanthropist to recognize the efforts of non-Jewish Germans to keep alive their nation's Jewish cultural past.

The foundation's name translates as "return" or "give back" but also can mean "restitution," and Schramm said it was intentionally chosen to emphasize its goal of raising awareness at a time when looted Jewish property and art was a little talked-about issue.

"It was very much our point with this word 'Zurueckgeben,' which in a way is a provocation, because in a way nobody really can give back, to raise consciousness about the injury that had been done very broadly in Germany," she told The Associated Press.

Today, there's a wider understanding that the Nazis plundered precious artworks and other property from Europe's Jews, partially because of recent stepped-up German government efforts to identify heirs and organize restitution, and the popular 2014 Hollywood film "The Monuments Men."

But most of the focus has been on the big-ticket items like precious paintings and sculptures. Schramm's foundation encourages Germans to take stock of the more mundane items in their households and question where they came from.

In part it's to fight the cliche perpetrated by the Nazis that all Jews were rich and powerful, and also to dispel the notion that only the Nazi elite profited at the expense of the Jews.

"Let it come close to your families and look at what other ways the German population did profit. When Jews were expelled from their jobs, of course non-Jewish Germans could take their job," Schramm said. "It's not only the question of real objects being robbed but their whole existence ... this is to raise awareness that it did reach almost every family, a kind of involvement or profiting."

Because it's almost impossible to determine the original owners of smaller items like cutlery and furniture, donors to the foundation often give a symbolic amount to Zurueckgeben, or sell the items and give the proceeds.

Since it began, hundreds of Germans have donated and the foundation has been able to pay out some 500,000 euros ($570,000) in grants to support more than 130 Jewish women's projects. Those include a children's theater, exhibitions, dance shows, books and films.

The 82-year-old Schramm, a former Greens party state lawmaker as well as an educator and author, has been involved in several other projects related to Nazi-era commemoration and atonement. She was previously honored by Berlin with the Moses Mendelssohn Prize, named after the Jewish philosopher and given to honor people for fostering tolerance.

She has also helped organize a nonprofit association to support projects in Greece after the Greek financial crisis, and has hosted seven refugees from Afghanistan and Syria in her own home. That followed German Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision to open the country's borders to more than 1 million migrants in 2015-16.

"Wherever I went, whatever I did, I saw something which was a blind spot and I took it up," she said.

Schramm was only 9 when the war ended. Even though she was there at times with her father as he rubbed elbows with Hitler and other top Nazis, she said the persecution of the Jews was not something she was aware of.

"I had no idea," she said, pausing contemplatively before adding: "But perhaps I didn't want to have an idea. I don't know."

Unlike many other top Nazis, who committed suicide or were executed after the war, Albert Speer served 20 years in a Berlin prison for war crimes after being convicted in the Nuremberg trials. At his trial, Speer, who died in 1981 in London, accepted moral responsibility but insisted he had not known of the Holocaust—a contention that many have questioned.

Schramm was able to talk with him and confront him with her questions, which was an opportunity she said a lot of the donors to her foundation never had with their families.

"In a way, I always felt in a good situation, as I knew what my father had been and what he had done very soon," she said. "Many men and women of my generation, they had no answer what their family had done."

Schramm's award was one of six presented by the organization philanthropist Arthur Obermayer established in 2000. Obermayer was inspired by the help Germans gave him in researching his German roots. He died in 2016.

Good Housekeeping

On Gardening: EverColor sedges equal ever-beautiful grassy texture

Everlite carex is seen partnered with blue pansies in a showy mixed container. TNS

TNS

The bright golden chartreuse of Everillo carex looks dazzling in the summer garden with caladiums and SunPatiens.

By Norman Winter
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The EverColor series of sedges is growing and all are proving to be ideal component plants in mixed containers. They are so dynamic they have the ability to be standalone or monoculture plants in tall European urns, olive jars or modern containers like I have at my house. In the landscape, however, they offer not only color by that fine leaf texture that stands out in great contrast with shrubs, perennials or annuals.

Everillo has been and will always be my first go-to selection. The bright golden chartreuse is simply incredible in those shifting filtered light areas of the landscape. Now, after a few years of maturity, they are even more dazzling than I could have ever dreamed. They have also grown to be a size that really makes an impact.

TNS

Everlite carex is the most compact of the EverColor group and is also the most cold-hardy.

TNS

EverColor Everoro is a golden varigated variety of sedge that is beautiful enough to be grown as a stand alone or mono-culture container.

This year, I get to watch and experience Everlite. It has cream-colored leaves with dark green margins or edges. It is the most compact selection but offers a unique curl that makes it stand out. Perish the thought if you think cream colored foliage can garner attention as much as golden garden chartreuse.

It will reach 10-inches tall and 8-inches wide. But I feel in the South after watching Everillo outperform its projections that Everlite will also exceed its expectations and reach 12- to- 14 inches. It is cold-hardy recommended all the way to the frigid zone 4b. All of the others are zones 5-9.

EverColor Everest like Everillo will reach 18-inches tall and as wide and might best be described as green leafed with white stripes. Everlime is the same height and though lime it is more subdued than Everillo with green leaves and lime margins. Everoro will be a sure-fire hit falling in size between Everlite and Everillo but is dazzling with green leaves that feature a large bright gold center band.

I also like Eversheen which is slightly smaller than Everillo reaching 16-inches tall and wide with green leaves and a bight lime stripe in the middle. Lastly is Everglow that is 12- to- 18 inches tall with green and gold variegation that exhibits orange in the central lower parts of the plant. While they all may sound similar, I assure you each has distinct color patterns.

Botanically speaking, these EverColor grasses or sedges are all selections of Carex oshimensis or Japanese sedge. There seems to be no plant combination that is not made better by partnering with one of these grasses. The trade is suggesting they be used as dazzling companions with hostas and ferns, and without a doubt that would be a garden of staggering beauty.

But I am watching them now in the cool season with pansies, dianthus, and burgundy leafed chard. They are simply beautiful. This will all give way, however, to combinations with SunPations, caladiums or begonias, elephant ears, and bananas for a look like Carnival in the Tropics. All of the landscape situations are mesmerizing and you'll see why the series is named, EverColor.

They are included in the Southern Living Plant Collection and EverColor group created by Pat Fitzgerald, the originator of the plant. With cold hardiness zones 5-9 most of the country will find these extremely easy to grow with good soil preparation. By good soil preparation, I mean fertile organic-rich soil which will not only give you the green thumb but the most sizzling combinations in the neighborhood whether in the landscape, mixed containers or monoculture. I hope you will give them a try.

The Garden Bug
Winter gardening tasks
• Clean pots, tools and greenhouses in preparation for spring. This will set you up for a great growing season.
• Start planning your garden for the coming year. Now is the time to order seeds and plants.
• Check any winter protection you've set up previously. Survey any coverings, stakes, supports and ties that might have become damaged.
• Put out food for hungry birds. Always leave some areas of your garden uncut for them to shelter until the spring. - Brenda Weaver
Source: www.thompson-morgan.com

© 2019 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Life & Style

5 burning questions ahead of Tuesday's Oscar nominations

NEW YORK (AP)—The Oscars still don't have a host, but on Tuesday morning, they'll at least have nominees.

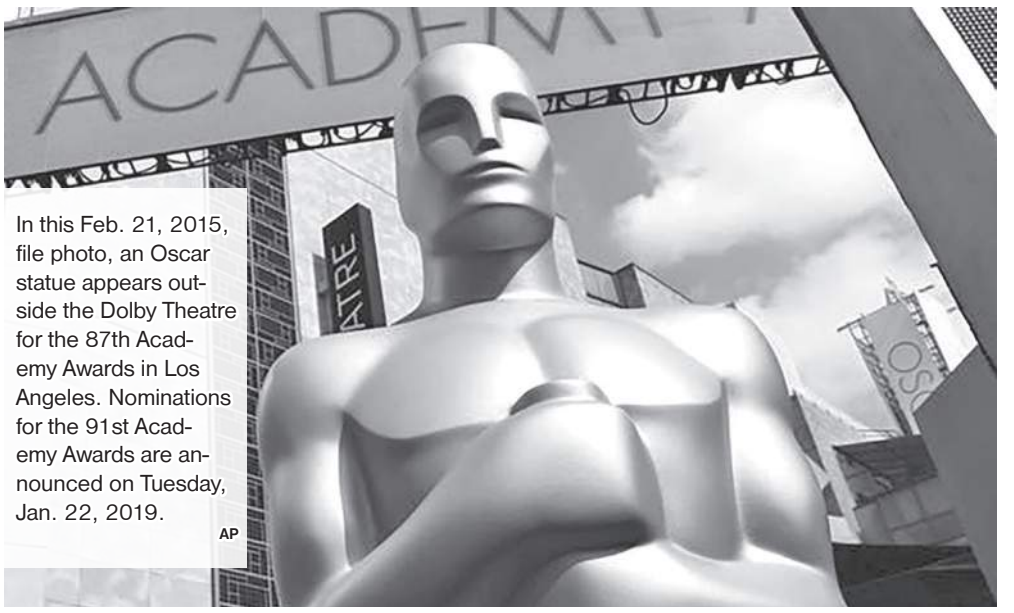
The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences will unveil nominations to the 91st Oscars on Tuesday morning at 8:20 a.m. EST from the Samuel Goldwyn Theatre in Beverly Hills, California. The nominations, to be announced by Kumail Nanjiani and Tracee Ellis Ross, will be livestreamed globally at Oscars.com , Oscars.org and on the academy's digital platforms like Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

The lead-up to Tuesday's nominations has been rocky for both the film academy and some of the movies in contention. Shortly after being announced as host, Kevin Hart was forced to withdraw over years-old homophobic tweets that the comedian eventually apologized for. That has left the Oscars, one month before its Feb. 24th ceremony, without an emcee, and likely to stay that way.

Hollywood's awards season has been an especially combustible one, too. Some contenders, like Peter Farrelly's "Green Book" and the Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody," have suffered waves upon waves of backlash, even as their awards tallies have mounted. On Saturday, "Green Book" won the top award from the Producers Guild, an honor that has been a reliable Oscar barometer. In the 10 years since the Oscars expanded its best-picture ballot, the PGA winner has gone on to win best picture eight times.

The season's steadiest contender — Bradley Cooper's "A Star Is Born" — looked potentially unbeatable until it got beat. Despite an enviable string of awards and more than $400 million in worldwide box office, Cooper's lauded remake was almost totally ignored at the Golden Globes, winning just best song and losing best picture, drama, to the popular but critically derided "Bohemian Rhapsody," a movie that jettisoned its director (Bryan Singer) mid-production.

Still, "A Star Is Born" (the sole film to land top nominations from every guild award except the Visual Effects Society) may be the lead nomination-getter Tuesday with around



In this Feb. 21, 2015, file photo, an Oscar statue appears outside the Dolby Theatre for the 87th Academy Awards in Los Angeles. Nominations for the 91st Academy Awards are announced on Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019. AP

10 nominations including best actress for Lady Gaga and both best director and best actor for Cooper. But other films, including Ryan Coogler's "Black Panther," Alfonso Cuaron's "Roma" and Yorgos Lanthimos' "The Favourite," could be in for big mornings, too.

Here are some of the pressing questions heading into Tuesday's nominations.

HOW MANY WILL THERE BE?

Best picture nominees can fall anywhere from five to ten. Most commonly, we end up with nine nominees, as there was last year when Guillermo del Toro's "The Shape of Water" ultimately prevailed. Most assured of a spot are the films that have fared well consistently with Hollywood's guilds, whose memberships overlap with the 17 branches of the academy.

The five films picked by the strongly predictive Directors Guild — "BlacKkKlansman," ''A Star is Born," ''Roma," ''Green Book" and "Vice" — are probably in. So, too, are "The Favourite" and "Black Panther," leaving films like "Eighth Grade," ''First Man," ''A Quiet Place" and "Bohemian Rhapsody" vying for a place.

CAN NETFLIX MAKE HISTORY?

"Roma," Cuaron's black-and-white memory masterwork, is poised to hand Netflix its first best picture nomination — something the streaming service has dearly sought. Amazon got there first in 2017 with "Manchester by the Sea" but Netflix came close last year with Dee Rees' "Mudbound." This time around, it has gone against its regular policies to release "Roma" in select theaters shortly in advance of arriving on Netflix.

But there's resistance among some academy members to Netflix films at the Oscars since the company typically bypasses movie theaters. Steve Spielberg has said Netflix films are more like TV movies and deserve an Emmy, not an Oscar.

If "Roma," which is Mexico's foreign language submission, were to win best picture, it would become the first foreign language film to ever win in the category. Cuaron, who served as his own director of photography, is expected to be nominated for both best directing and best cinematography. If he were to win best director, he and his "Three Amigos" countrymen — del Toro, Alejandro G. Inarritu — will have won the category five of the last six years.

WILL 'BLACK PANTHER' ROAR?

Coogler's superhero sensation sold more tickets ($700 million worth) than any other film in North America in 2018. It has thus far won some honors here and there, but "Black Panther" may emerge as a major contender Tuesday. Coogler's film could be well represented in the craft categories, including visual effects, production design and costumes, along with Kendrick Lamar's "All the Stars" in the best song category.

The film's director of photography, Rachel Morrison, last year became the first woman to be nominated for best cinematography. This year, she could repeat the feat.

"Black Panther" could make history in one other way, too. A best picture nomination would be Marvel's first.

WILL SPIKE LAND HIS FIRST DIRECTING NOMINATION?

Spike Lee has been nominated twice before, for writing 1989's "Do the Right Thing" and for best documentary (1998's "4 Little Girls"). The 61-year-old filmmaker has even been given an honorary Oscar by the film academy, in 2015. But this year, Lee is favored to earn his first directing nomination for his impassioned white supremacist drama "BlacKkKlansman."

A year after Greta Gerwig became just the fifth woman nominated for best director, all of this year's favorites are men. Whether someone like Debra Granik ("Leave No Trace") can crack the category this year or not, it will be a different academy voting. In the last few years, the academy has considerably increased its membership in an effort to diversify its ranks, which have historically been overwhelmingly white and male. In June, the academy invited a record 928 new members.

AND ABOUT THAT HOST?

The Academy of Motion Pictures is reportedly planning to go host-less following Hart's exit, something it has tried only once before in an infamous 1989 telecast that featured a lengthy musical number with Rob Lowe and Snow White.

The Oscars last year hit a new ratings low, declining 20 percent and averaging 26.5 million viewers. Though ratings for award shows have generally been dropping, the downturn prompted the academy to revamp this year's telecast. Though initial plans for a new popular film category were scuttled, the academy is planning to present some awards off-air and keep the broadcast to three hours.

UK police speak to Prince Philip about not wearing seatbelt

LONDON (AP)—British police have spoken with Prince Philip after the husband of Queen Elizabeth II was photographed apparently driving without wearing a seatbelt—just two days after he was involved in a serious car crash.

British media on Saturday published a photograph showing the 97-year-old royal driving a new Land Rover near the royal residence at Sandringham in eastern England.

Norfolk Police said "suitable words of advice have been given to the driver."

Police said the advice given to Philip was "in line with our standard response when being made aware of such images showing this type of offense."

Buckingham Palace didn't comment on the images.

Philip was driving another Land Rover when he was involved in a violent collision on Thursday in which two women in a Kia car were injured. A 9-month-old baby boy in the Kia was unhurt. Philip had to be helped out of his overturned vehicle but wasn't injured.

The palace said Friday that Philip and the queen had privately contacted the other people in the crash and exchanged good wishes.

But Emma Fairweather, who broke her wrist in the collision, told the Sunday Mirror newspaper that she had not heard from the palace.

"I still haven't had any contact from the royal household," she said. "Maybe he should prioritize that over test driving his new car."

The 46-year-old said "it would mean the world to me" if Philip offered an apology.

Police haven't disclosed who was at fault for the crash, which happened after Philip drove onto a main road from a side road near the royal family's Sandringham estate, 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of London.

The queen and Philip have been on an extended Christmas break in Sandringham, their holiday tradition for many years.

Philip has been in generally good health and was photographed in December driving a horse-drawn carriage. He has largely retired from public life but still is occasionally seen at family occasions with the queen.

The accident—and Philip's subsequent driving apparently without using a seatbelt—is raising questions about his continued use of public roadways.

Buckingham Palace says Philip has a valid driver's license. There is no upper age limit for licensing drivers in Britain, although drivers over 70 are required to renew their licenses every three years and tell authorities about any medical conditions that might raise safety issues.

Philip passed a vision test Saturday as part of the investigation into the accident.

AP

Broken glass and car parts on the road side near to the Sandringham Estate, England, where Prince Philip was involved in a road accident Thursday while he was driving, Friday Jan. 18, 2019.

At Sundance, powerhouse documentaries will be everywhere

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For documentary filmmakers, there's no place like the Sundance Film Festival.

The mountainside festival which kicks off Thursday in Park City, Utah, has become known for launching nonfiction films to box office successes and awards, and this year is shaping up to be no different. The slate boasts a wide array of films about fallen titans, from Harvey Weinstein to Theranos' Elizabeth Holmes, music legends Miles Davis and David Crosby, two of Michael Jackson's sexual abuse accusers, the Cambridge Analytica/Facebook scandal, Apollo 11, Mike Wallace, Toni Morrison and Dr. Ruth.

In the past five years, three of the best documentary feature Oscar winners got their start at Sundance—"Icarus," "O.J.: Made in America" and "20 Feet from Stardom." And most of this year's Oscars shortlist premiered and won special honors at last year's festival (like "Shirkers," "On Her Shoulders," "Of Fathers and Sons," "Dark Money," "Crime + Punishment" and "Hale County This Morning, This Evening") and some are considered shoo-ins for a nomination, like "Three Identical Strangers," "RGB," "Minding the Gap" and "Won't You Be My Neighbor?"

AP
In this Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015, file photo, the Egyptian Theatre is lit up on Main Street during the first night of the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

"Sundance is the greatest launching pad," said filmmaker Julia Reichert. "I can't think of another festival that shows fiction and documentaries that puts as much honor, respect and spotlight on the documentary."

The three-time Oscar nominee returns this year with "American Factory," looking at what happened when a Chinese billionaire bought a closed General Motors factory outside of Reichert's hometown of Dayton, Ohio and created 2,000 manufacturing jobs in an area still suffering from the plant's initial closure.

"Most documentary filmmakers aspire to get into Sundance. It's such a fantastic festival with great potential for distribution and raising the profile of a film. But particularly for films about American politics, it's really a natural choice," said Rachel Lears, who directed "Knock Down the House." It follows four women looking to upset incumbents in a Congressional primary, including first-term New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who is expected to be at the festival.

The prolific documentarian Alex Gibney is also back with his latest, "The Inventor: Out For Blood In Silicon Valley" which looks at the rise and fall of the multibillion dollar tech health care company Theranos and the psychology of its founder, Elizabeth Holmes.

"(Sundance has) always promoted docs and it's always promoted them in a way that puts them on the same footing as scripted films," Gibney said.

One of the most anticipated premieres is "Leaving Neverland," a 233-minute film from BAFTA-winning director Dan Reed about two of Michael Jackson's accusers. It will screen only once in Park City, on Jan. 25, before airing on HBO and British public broadcaster Channel 4 in two installments this spring. The Jackson estate has already denounced it as "just another rehash of dated and discredited allegations." Jackson was acquitted of molestation charges in 2005.

For some, Sundance was an obvious choice because of the subject matter. That was the case for the Harvey Weinstein documentary, "Untouchable," from director Ursula Macfarlane. Her film charts the disgraced mogul's career from his early days as a music promotor in Buffalo, to the heyday of Miramax and up to his fall in October of 2017 with the torrent of sexual misconduct and rape allegations against him that spanned decades, some of which allegedly have occurred at the festival. Weinstein has denied all allegations of nonconsensual sex.

It was a sprint to get it done in time for this year's festival, however, having less than a year to do so.

"We always wanted it to be submitted to Sundance and we put a lot of pressure on ourselves .... Halfway through the summer we thought no, we can't, this isn't going to work. And (producer) Simon (Chinn) came in and saw a rough cut and said let's send it. It was all hands on deck. It's been an intense few months," Macfarlane said. "It's the perfect place for a film about Harvey. It's where he had a lot of successes and he changed it and the whole kind of vibe of the industry."

For entirely different reasons, the team behind "Love, Antosha," about the life of the late actor Anton Yelchin, also sought out a coveted Sundance spot.

"Anton had so many projects that went through Sundance. It was always a home away from home for him," said director Garret Price. "For his last movie to be there, essentially, it all feels like the way it's supposed to be. I think it's where he would have wanted it."

Yelchin died at age 27 in 2016 in a "freak accident," when his Jeep rolled down his driveway and pinned him against a pillar and a security fence.

"I wanted to tell a coming-of-age story and a linear story through his eyes," Price said, who will be doing interviews at the festival alongside Yelchin's parents. "The challenge of a story like this is it ultimately ends in tragedy but I didn't want to make a tragic story. I wanted to make an inspiring story."

Notre Dame to cover up murals of Columbus in the New World

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP)—The University of Notre Dame will cover murals in a campus building that depict Christopher Columbus in America, the school's president said, following criticism that the images depict Native Americans in stereotypical submissive poses before white European explorers.

The 12 murals created in the 1880s by Luis Gregori were intended to encourage immigrants who had come to the U.S. during a period of anti-Catholic sentiment. But they conceal another side of Columbus: the exploitation and repression of Native Americans , said the Rev. John Jenkins, president of Notre Dame.

It is a "darker side of this story, a side we must acknowledge," Jenkins said in a letter Sunday.

The murals in the Catholic university's Main Building are painted directly on walls. Jenkins said they will be covered, although they still could be occasionally displayed. A permanent display of photos of the paintings will be created elsewhere with an explanation of their context.

"We wish to preserve artistic works originally intended to celebrate immigrant Catholics who were marginalized at the time in society, but do so in a way that avoids unintentionally marginalizing others," Jenkins said.

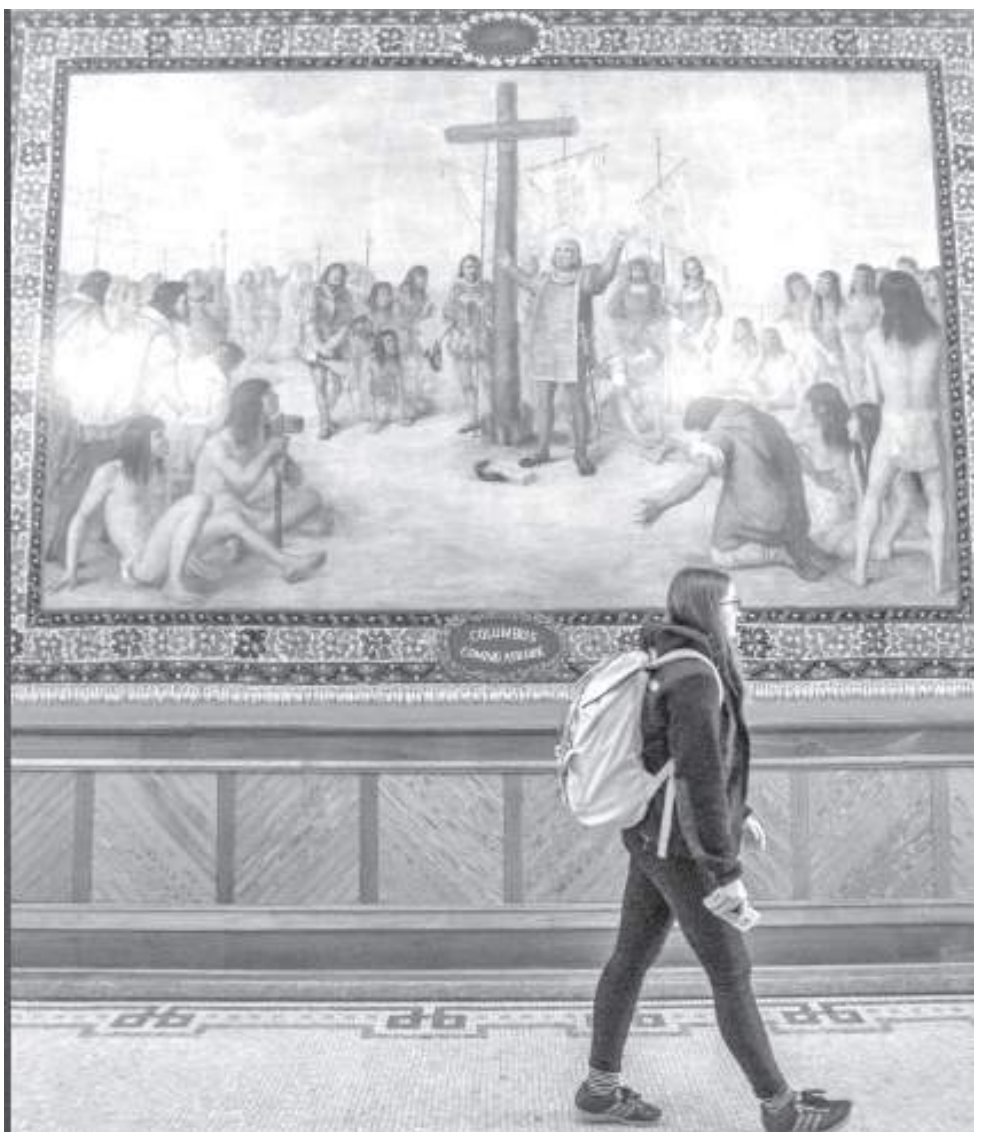
In 2017, more than 300 students, employees and Notre Dame alumni signed a letter in the campus newspaper that called for the removal of the murals.

The president of the Native American Student Association praised Jenkins' decision.

"This is a good step towards acknowledging the full humanity of those native people who have come before us," said Marcus Winchester-Jones of Dowagiac, Michigan.

But Notre Dame law student Grant Strobl said the decision was disappointing.

"If we adopt the standard of judging previous generations by current standards, we may reach a point where there are no longer accomplishments to celebrate," Strobl said.



AP
In this Nov. 29, 2017, photo Kristin Fabian walks by a mural of Christopher Columbus at Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.

'Gotti' leads Razzie nominations, Trump up for worst actor

NEW YORK (AP)—John Travolta's John Gotti biopic "Gotti" has topped the 39th annual Razzie Awards with a co-leading six nominations, while President Donald Trump also earned a nod for worst actor.

In nominations announced Monday, "Gotti," the Will Ferrell comedy "Holmes & Watson," conservative provocateur Dinesh D'Souza's "Death of a Nation" and the R-rated puppet comedy "Happytime Murders" all earned six nominations.

Nominated for worst picture are "Gotti," "The Happytime Murders," "Holmes & Watson," "Robin Hood" and "Winchester."

Along with Johnny Depp in "Sherlock Gnomes" and Travolta in "Gotti," the Razzies nominated Trump in "Death of a Nation" and Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 11/9" for worst actor. It also nominated Trump and "his self-perpetuating pettiness" for worst screen combo. Melania Trump was nominated for worst supporting actress.

Winners will be revealed Feb. 23.

AP

Kelly Preston and John Travolta attend the premiere of "Gotti" at the SVA Theatre on Thursday in New York.

Bon Jovi's restaurant gives free meal to furloughed workers

RED BANK, N.J. (AP)—A restaurant owned by musician and New Jersey native Jon Bon Jovi is providing free meals to local government workers and their families during the federal government shutdown.

JBJ Soul Kitchen in Red Bank announced on Facebook it will provide the free meals to furloughed workers Monday between 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

The meals are a result of a partnership between Gov. Phil Murphy's organization the Phil and Tammy Murphy Family Foundation.

JBJ Soul Kitchen opened in 2011, and the restaurant allows customers to pay a donation or volunteer to pay for their meals.

AP

In this Oct. 19, 2011, file photo, rock star Jon Bon Jovi sits in his JBJ Soul Kitchen community restaurant in Red Bank, N.J.

Singapore actor Aloysius Pang injured in military exercise

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Singaporean actor Aloysius Pang sustained serious injuries to his chest and abdomen during a military training exercise in New Zealand, Singapore's defense ministry said Monday.

The 28-year-old actor was injured Saturday while he was carrying out repairs inside a Singapore Self-Propelled Howitzer, a motorized piece of artillery that looks similar to a small tank.

The ministry said in a statement the actor, also known as Pang Wei Chong, was participating in Exercise Thunder Warrior at the Waiouru training area on New Zealand's North Island.

Pang

Pang underwent several hours of abdominal surgery at Waikato Hospital in Hamilton on Saturday and had follow-up surgery on Monday, the ministry said. Pang's mother arrived in New Zealand and spoke with him in the hospital and his father and brother were due to arrive Monday.

Singapore has a policy of mandatory conscription of young men into the armed forces, police force or civil defense force. Most serve full time for two years, followed by annual training obligations.

The ministry described Pang as an "Operationally Ready National Serviceman" indicating that he had completed his full-time service. It described him as an armament technician and his rank as corporal first class.

Pang's Singapore-based agency, NoonTalk Media, wrote on Facebook that it was waiting for more information on the actor's condition from the military and his family.

"Please bear with us and join us in praying for his swift recovery," the agency wrote.

New Zealand's defense force said a member of Singapore's military was injured during a live-firing exercise that New Zealand's military hosts each year.

Singapore's defense ministry said it was investigating the incident to determine the cause.

Pang is known for his work on the movie "Young & Fabulous" (2016) as well as television series that include "The Truth Seekers" (2016) and "C.L.I.F." (2011).

NAACP wants newscaster fired after Martin Luther King slur

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The NAACP wants a St. Louis-area TV station to fire a newscaster for what he called an unintentional racial slur while talking about Martin Luther King Jr.

KTVI newscaster Kevin Steincross was discussing a tribute to the black civil rights leader on Jan. 17, when he referred to King as "Martin Luther coon Jr." He apologized a few hours later, saying he accidentally misspoke.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that the St. Louis County NAACP plans to ask the TV station to fire Steincross when they meet Monday.

Owner Tribune Broadcasting has said KTVI believed Steincross' statement was an inadvertent mistake and that it doesn't plan to discipline him.

NAACP chapter president, John Gaskin, said even if people believe the comment was a mistake, some mistakes are grounds for termination.

Kiss shared with a co-worker puts marriage on shakier ground

DEAR ABBY: I may be having a midlife crisis. I'm not happy in my marriage and haven't been for quite some time. I pray every night that my husband will find someone else so he will leave our marriage. I tried to leave him before, but financially I couldn't make it. I'm now at the point where I don't care about the financial side of it.

I recently kissed a co-worker. It was really hot, heavy and I want more. I haven't felt this alive in years. My co-worker is not the reason I want a divorce, but now, feeling desired by someone makes me want out even more. But I'm a coward. I don't know how to tell my husband I'm no longer in love with him.

COWARD IN THE SOUTH

DEAR COWARD: Not knowing you, I can't determine whether you may be having a midlife crisis. However, you definitely do need to talk to your husband, if only to ask if he feels the same emptiness that you do. It would be better for both of you if you tried counseling to see if it's possible to heal your marriage before you run out the door.

I caution you about involving yourself in a workplace romance while you are feeling this needy. If it doesn't work out —and most of them don't—you could find yourself not only without a husband but also a job.

DEAR ABBY: I dated a man I'll call Mike for several years. We eventually broke up because of distance and a difference of opinion about where we wanted to live. I also had developed a crush on a female friend, which contributed to my decision to break off with him.

The crush didn't work out. Now, more than a year later, Mike and I are close friends. I visited him recently and realized I still have feelings for him. I want to get back together, but I don't think I should say it unless I am 100 percent certain I won't break up with him again.

Abby, I wonder if I might be gay. I don't know what to do. I love Mike, but I'm paranoid that I'll eventually regret getting back together with him. I couldn't betray his trust again. What should I do?

CONFUSED 20-SOMETHING

DEAR CONFUSED: You may be gay; you might also be bisexual or simply curious. You owe it to yourself AND TO MIKE to talk to a counselor and explore what your sexual orientation is. If you and Mike have worked through your other differences, only the two of you can decide whether to resume your relationship or just be friends. (Friendships have been known to sometimes last longer than romantic relationships.)

DEAR ABBY: My question is, is it ethical to "try" the fruit at the grocery store? I am amazed at the number of shoppers who open the bags of grapes and help themselves to a snack. Shouldn't they buy without sampling?

CRAIG IN FLORIDA

DEAR CRAIG: Theoretically, shoppers should buy without sampling. Talk to the manager of the grocery store about it. Some establishments leave a bag of grapes, cherries, etc. open for shoppers to sample to see if they would like to buy. If that's not happening in the store you patronize, consider suggesting it.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

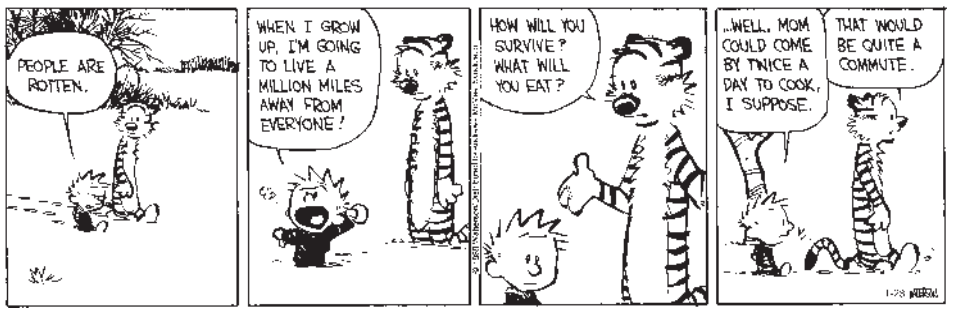
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

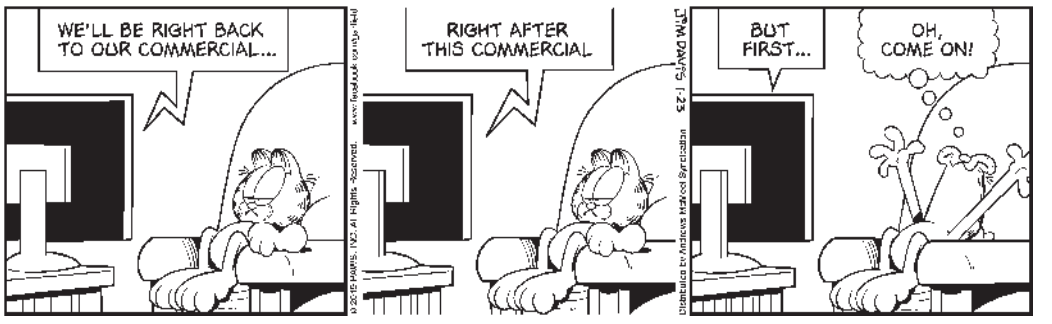
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


PEOPLE ARE ROTTEN.
WHEN I GROW UP, I'M GOING TO LIVE A MILLION MILES AWAY FROM EVERYONE!
HOW WILL YOU SURVIVE? WHAT WILL YOU EAT?
..WELL, MOM COULD COME BY TWICE A DAY TO COOK, I SUPPOSE.
THAT WOULD BE QUITE A COMMUTE.

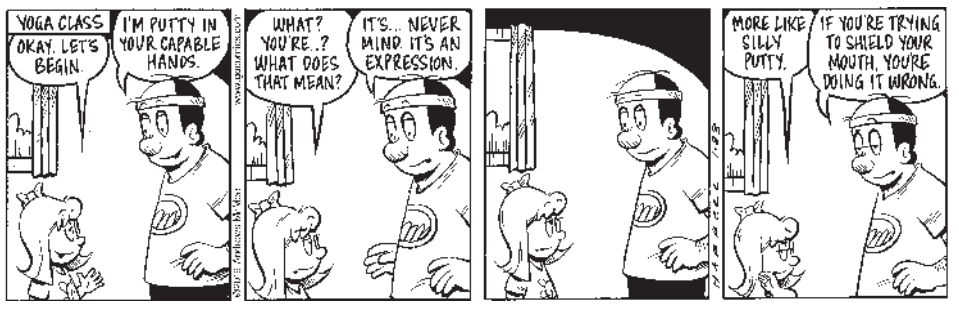
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOGA CLASS
OKAY. LET'S BEGIN.
I'M PUTTY IN YOUR CAPABLE HANDS.
WHAT? YOU'RE..? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
IT'S... NEVER MIND. IT'S AN EXPRESSION.
MORE LIKE SILLY PUTTY.
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO SHIELD YOUR MOUTH, YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

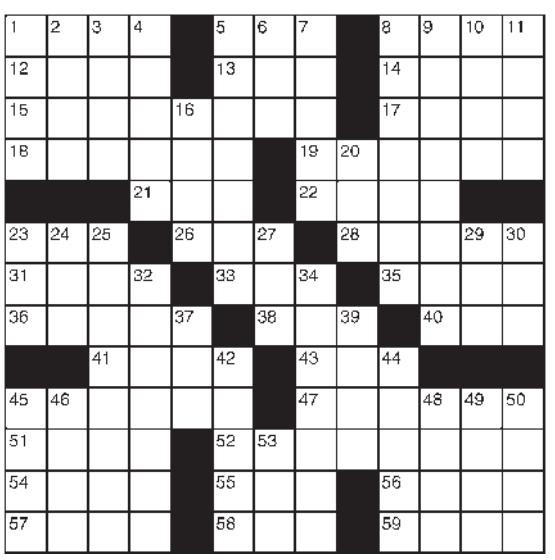
ACROSS
1 Green shade
5 Police officer
8 Achy
12 Last writes?
13 Coach Parseghian
14 Bard's river
15 Besides
17 Hatchling's home
18 Bagel choice
19 Aquarium favorites
21 Weir
22 Mediocre
23 Fan's cry
26 '60s war zone
28 Entrap
31 Coup d' —
33 "The Voice" network
35 "My Way" composer
36 Event location
38 "Eureka!"
40 Speck
41 Zwei follower
43 Literary rep
45 Move fast
47 Wiped out
51 Teen fave
52 Oliver Twist's request
54 Margarita garnish
55 Leading lady?
56 Buffalo's lake
57 "A Room of — Own"
58 Sailor
59 Grit

DOWN
1 May honorees
2 Bassoon's kin
3 Round Table titles
4 Lieu
5 Neanderthal
6 Raw mineral
7 Medicare section
8 "Evil Ways" band
9 Type of volleyball serve
10 Activist Parks
11 Tolkien creatures
16 Muscat's land
20 Overhead trains
23 Speed (up)
24 Devoured
25 Good-looking
27 CEO's deg.
29 "Top Hat" studio
30 Chow down
32 Swimming reptiles
34 Smooth talker
37 Shoe width
39 Malaria symptom
42 Map within a map
44 London newspaper
45 Hawaiian city
46 Tennis score
48 Asta's feeder
49 Ireland
50 Monopoly card
53 Eggs

Solution time: 23 mins.

B	E	E	T	■	F	E	D	■	C	H	U	B
A	I	T	O	■	I	T	S	■	A	F	F	O
B	A	R	T	I	F	T	T	■	R	A	G	F
F	N	F	■	O	R	F	■	U	T	T	F	R
■	■	■	P	R	Y	■	B	M	W	■	■	■
S	N	E	A	D	■	O	R	P	I	E	U	S
T	I	E	R	■	R	N	A	■	E	■	N	A
S	A	N	T	A	F	E	■	C	E	C	I	L
■	■	■	I	C	K	■	G	A	L	■	■	■
B	O	A	S	I	■	■	L	N	■	K	E	A
U	C	L	A	■	M	A	R	T	I	N	I	S
S	H	U	N	■	E	M	U	■	L	E	N	A
T	O	M	S	■	D	E	S	■	K	E	E	P

Yesterday's answer 1-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tiffani Thiessen, 45; Mariska Hargitay, 55; Gail O'Grady, 56; Richard Dean Anderson, 69.

Happy Birthday: Honesty will play a big role in how your life unfolds this year. Begin with self-evaluation, followed by an assessment of those you associate with. Look at your attributes and consider how to utilize your talents in order to reach your goals. You can get ahead if you follow proper protocol and concentrate on what it is you are trying to achieve. Your numbers are 3, 14, 21, 29, 36, 40, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take care of your responsibilities before someone complains. You are best to keep busy and to avoid lengthy conversations. Wasting time will leave you feeling unsatisfied as well as make you look bad. Finish what you start. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Strive for excellence. How you approach your work and deal with others will make a difference to the way things unfold. Mingle with people who can help you get ahead. An emotional plea will pay off. Recognition will be yours. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Put the changes you want to make into motion. Own what you do and say, and stand by your promises. How you handle others will make a difference, so refrain from using emotional manipulation, even if it's tempting. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Do things your way. Take a different route to get to where you want to go. Experience new people, places and pastimes, but don't lose sight of who you are and what you are striving to become. Trust is essential. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't let the changes going on around you throw you off your game. Concentrate on what you need to accomplish and use your skills and experience to reach your goals. Celebrate your accomplishments with someone you love. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Get out and do things that will open your mind to new ideas and possibilities. Listen to what others have to say, but don't buy in to someone else's dream when you should be focusing on your own. Emotional deception is apparent. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't let someone disrupt your world. Look inward and make changes that will help you be at your very best. Don't share your thoughts or plans with anyone. Keep passwords and personal information secret. Walk away from indulgent people. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Open your mind and listen to what others say. Once you have all the facts, make a decision based on what you feel you can live with and walk away from anyone or anything you don't consider to be good for you. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Change begins within. Consider what you want and how best to get it while sticking to a set budget and not jeopardizing your position or your reputation. Don't believe everything you hear, and stick to the truth to avoid backlash. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Push for what you want. Look at the logistics behind a moneymaking endeavor and consider who is involved before you promise anything. Emotional deception regarding contracts and money will unfold if you are gullible or too trusting. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take care of matters that could hold you back. Update documents and contracts that need to be addressed, and take care of any health issues quickly. Question anyone who shows signs of inconsistency or tends to exaggerate. Don't underestimate your assets. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take better care of yourself. Do whatever it takes to limit excessive behavior, and concentrate on a better fitness routine that will encourage you to distance yourself from bad influences and people who are emotionally draining. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are patient, innovative and courageous. You are ambitious and playful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	9						
	4		2					
	3			7				
	5				4			
	9	6	7	1	3	8		
3			4					
9		7	8	3	4	6	5	1
	3							2
	6	2	5	9	8	3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	3	4	8	7	9	1	6	2
1	7	6	5	4	2	8	9	3
8	9	2	3	1	6	5	4	7
4	1	9	6	3	5	2	7	8
6	2	8	7	9	1	3	5	4
3	5	7	4	2	8	9	1	6
7	4	1	9	8	3	6	2	5
2	8	5	1	6	7	4	3	9
9	6	3	2	5	4	7	8	1

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/22

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'MOM' (TV SERIES) Solution: 13 letters

N	B	A	C	H	R	I	S	T	Y	E	N	N	A	J
O	A	M	N	D	J	A	M	E	S	S	A	D	I	E
S	X	M	E	N	E	W	R	L	E	V	I	L	F	F
I	T	E	E	I	A	Y	A	O	Ⓦ	S	L	E	M	I
L	E	G	N	L	D	F	D	I	S	Ⓞ	H	U	O	L
L	R	N	U	N	G	D	R	V	T	C	Ⓗ	U	C	K
A	O	K	S	P	I	N	E	U	I	R	O	Ⓢ	T	E
B	E	R	I	W	R	T	I	C	D	C	E	E	I	N
A	G	O	R	O	D	E	T	S	K	Y	T	S	S	N
K	T	F	A	E	I	O	S	E	R	N	M	O	S	E
E	R	A	F	G	O	A	L	S	K	E	I	M	R	D
R	E	T	H	G	U	A	D	N	L	N	H	V	E	Y
E	B	H	A	L	L	W	E	N	D	Y	U	T	L	R
A	O	E	I	R	O	J	R	A	M	A	L	L	O	A
L	S	R	N	O	S	N	U	M	R	M	O	M	P	M

© 2019 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 1/23

Allison, Alvin, Anna, Baker, Baxter, Bonnie, Chef, Christy, Chuck, Daughter, Eddie, Emmy, Faris, Father, Gemma, Goals, Gorodetsky, Hall, James, Janney, Jill, Kennedy, Life, Live, Lorre, Luke, Marjorie, Mary, Mom, Mother, Mr. Munson, Plunkett, Pressly, Real, Roscoe, Rudy, Sadie, Show, Single, Sitcom, Sober, Victor, Violet, Waitress, Wendy, Widdoes

Yesterday's Answer: Maitre D

Treasuries 13 through 34 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

For positive results.

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!

Please contact us at 235-6397

Augustin Taitano Aldan
P.O. Box 500817
Saipan, MP 96950
235-2662/285-9711
PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINMENT OF AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF M.R.M. [D.O.B. 10/09/2007] Minor Child by Augustin Taitano Aldan Petitioner	:	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0020 NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor child by Augustin T. Aldan, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Associate Judge Kim-Tenorio on the 8th day of April, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

VEHICLES FOR BID
"AS IS"

2005 NISSAN ALTIMA
2018 TOYOTA YARIS

Last day for bidding is January 31, 2019 at 3:00PM. For more information, please call Loans Department at 235-6260 ext. 123 or 124. The Bank reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

VEHICLES FOR SALE
"AS IS"

2016 HYUNDAI ACCENT
2017 TOYOTA TACOMA 4X4

Financing available, see staff at Loans Department for details.

Bank of Saipan

Marianas Pride

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper for more news, value and information.

SUBSCRIBING MEANS MORE

Please call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT Solution: Snap up a bargain

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as $15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

- 3-Liner **$15**
- 5-Liner **$24**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

P
BARGAIN
N
S

WHATZIT® © 2019 www.whatzit.com Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Serena ousts Halep, faces Pliskova next

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—As Serena Williams made her way out to the Australian Open's main court during pre-match introductions, the voice booming over the stadium's speakers implored spectators to welcome "the world's No. 1 player—from Romania, Simona Halep."

Oops.

Williams, wearing headphones, quickly pivoted and retreated back into the tunnel she'd just emerged from, making way for her fourth-round opponent Monday night. A couple of hours later, when Williams wrapped up her 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 victory over Halep in a contest filled with momentum swings and fantastic play by both, it was clear which woman really is No. 1, regardless of what the current rankings say.

"It was a really intense match, and it was some incredible points," said Williams, who improved to 9-1 against Halep and now meets 2016 U.S. Open runner-up Karolina Pliskova in the quarterfinals. "I love playing tennis and I love to play here and I love to be back out here."

The 37-year-old American sat out last year's Australian Open after giving birth to a daughter months earlier and dealing with health complications. Since returning to the tour, Williams has reached the past two Grand Slam finals, losing both — and leaving her still one shy of equaling Margaret Court's record of 24 major singles titles.

Halep offered up the first real test Williams has faced at this year's Australian Open, where she is bidding for an eighth trophy, pushing her throughout a back-and-forth matchup that was a fascinating mix of power, court coverage and shotmaking.

It wasn't until Williams saved three break points in a monumental game to hold for 3-all in the third set that she gained control.

"I was unlucky a little bit," Halep said.

Williams then broke for a 4-3 lead and finally was on her way.

"In order for me to stay out there, I had to play a little like I knew I could," said Williams, who is seeded 16th on account of all the time she took away from tennis while becoming a mother. "I'm such a fighter. I just never give up. It's definitely something that's innate. I just work so hard for every point."

That she does. She also makes abundantly clear just how much every point means to her.

Against Halep — who beat Serena's older sister, Venus, in the third round — Williams frequently pumped her fists or yelled "Come on!" after key exchanges. When Halep hit one shot that caught the net tape and barely trickled over for a winner, Williams looked pained and complained, "I mean, it's not fair."

Pliskova advanced earlier Monday with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over two-time major champion Garbine Muguruza.

The other quarterfinal on that side of the women's bracket features No. 4 Naomi Osaka against No. 6 Elina Svitolina. Osaka, who beat Williams in last year's U.S. Open final, edged No. 13 Anastasija Sevastova 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the fourth round, while Svitolina got past 2017 U.S. Open finalist Madison Keys 6-2, 1-6, 6-1.

Williams and Halep traded jittery breaks of serve in the opening two games, as each double-faulted and flubbed shots. But Williams settled down first, compiling a 10-3 advantage in winners to grab the opening set.

"I felt," Halep said afterward, "like I had been hit by the train."

Halep then fell behind by a break in the second, before suddenly seeming to awaken and display her own brand of baseline talent that carried her to the Australian Open final and French Open championship in 2018.

Halep made only 12 unforced errors in the entire match, and that clean play got her back into things, especially as Williams' miscue count rose to a final tally of 31.

"She's back to being Serena on both the physical and emotional side. So I think her level is good," said Williams' coach, Patrick Mouratoglou. "I think she needed a big fight, and it happened today, and I think it's a great thing — especially when it ends like that."

Until facing Halep, Williams had dropped a total of only nine games through three matches in the tournament. Not only did Halep exceed that total, she also snapped Williams' 21-set Australian Open winning streak.

That dated to the start of Williams' run to the 2017 title, which she won while pregnant.

"Overall, I'm hanging in there. I think overall, I'm solid," Williams said. "I can definitely go to a new level. I have to if I want to stay in the tournament."

In the men's matches, 2016 Wimbledon runner-up Milos Raonic knocked off No. 4-seeded Alexander Zverev 6-1, 6-1, 7-6 (5), and next takes on No. 28 Lucas Pouille, a 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-5, 7-6 (2) winner over No. 11 Borna Coric. No. 23 Pablo Carreno Busta left the court yelling at the chair umpire after a disagreement in the concluding tiebreaker of his 6-7 (8), 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (8) loss to No. 8-seeded Kei Nishikori in a 5-hour, 5-minute marathon that was the longest match of the tournament.

AP

United States' Serena Williams makes a backhand return to Romania's Simona Halep during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019.

Sore, tired Djokovic expects to be OK for quarterfinals

Record-chasing Novak Djokovic is feeling sore and tired following his late-finishing win over Daniil Medvedev, but thinks he will be OK for his quarterfinal match against Kei Nishikori.

"I didn't feel so great, you know, in the last 20 minutes of the match or so," Djokovic, aiming for a record seventh men's title in Australia, said after overcoming a couple of tumbles and a series of energy-sapping baseline exchanges in the 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-3 win.

Immediately after the match, he said in a TV interview that he had never felt fresher.

At a later news conference, he was more circumspect about his preparation for Wednesday's quarterfinals.

"It was not the fall. It was not particularly the fall. It was just, you know, a little bit of fatigue, a little bit of back," he said. "Nothing major. But there are a couple of things that have surfaced, so to say, you know, after a match like this.

"We'll see tomorrow how the body reacts, but I'm confident I can recover and I can be ready for next one.

Japan tops Saudi Arabia, Australia wins shootout

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Title contenders Japan and Australia scraped through tough last-16 games at the Asian Cup on Monday, joined by the host team United Arab Emirates.

Japan advanced to the uarterfinals by beating Saudi Arabia 1-0, while defending champion Australia needed penalties to get past Uzbekistan.

Takehiro Tomiyasu scored for Japan with a header in the 20th minute and the Saudis created few chances despite having more than 75 percent of the possession against a defense-first Japan team.

"In our team, we share the same idea that even when our opponent keeps the ball, if we carefully defend at the endline, we should be able to defend without any problem," defender Yuto Nagatomo said. "Our opponents held the ball for long periods, but our view was that we let them hold the ball."

Japan, which is looking to win a record fifth Asian Cup title, will next face Vietnam, the lowest ranked of the six teams to qualify so far for the quarterfinals.

Saudi Arabia has not reached the quarterfinals in 12 years. Coach Juan Antonio Pizzi's contract was due to expire after the tournament and he said it hadn't been renewed.

"No one has talked to me from the Saudi federation about that," the Argentine coach said. "We played most of the time today in their half and we controlled the ball and had position, but we lacked the final touch and determination to transfer the position into goals."

Official attendance figures put the crowd at just 6,832 as the Asian Cup continued to be notable for banks of empty seats and echoing chants.

Australia struggled to create chances as a drab game against Uzbekistan ended 0-0 after extra time, before winning the shootout 4-2.

On his return from a hamstring injury, Mathew Leckie scored the winning penalty.

Shooting second for Australia, Aziz Behich saw his penalty saved but goalkeeper Mathew Ryan—shifting from side to side on his line to distract Uzbekistan's penalty takers—stopped two Uzbek shots to put Australia ahead and allow Leckie to seal the win.

Uzbekistan almost scored early on when Ryan kept out Eldor Shomurodov's shot, while Australia wasted second-half opportunities by shooting straight at goalkeeper Ignaty Nesterov. Defeat in the last 16 would have marked Australia's worst Asian Cup result.

Australia is part-way through a rebuild under coach Graham Arnold after veteran players such as Mile Jedinak and Tim Cahill retired from international football following last year's World Cup. Since joining the Asian confederation in 2006, Australia has played eight games in the knockout stages, with five of those going to extra time.

Australia's quarterfinal opposition will be the United Arab Emirates after the host side beat Kyrgyzstan 3-2 after extra time.

Thompson on fire in Warriors blowout of Lakers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For at least a quarter and a half, it looked like the Los Angeles Lakers would have a chance to steal a win solely off the Los Angeles nightlife.

But three days in Los Angeles wasn't enough to stop the Golden State Warriors from doing what everyone expected them to do as they blew out a short-handed Lakers group missing Lonzo Ball, Rajon Rondo and LeBron James, 130-111, on Monday night.

Klay Thompson led the Warriors and all scorers with 44 points on an incredible 17-20 from the field. Thompson also set an NBA record by making his first 10 3-pointers without missing. The win was the 8th straight for Golden State, the longest active streak in the NBA.

Brandon Ingram had 17 points to lead the Lakers starters as he got the nod at point guard with the top-three creators on the team all unavailable. Ivica Zubac also had another very efficient game from the floor, scoring 18 points in just 16 minutes of play off the bench.

Outside of the first quarter, there was zero time during the game where it looked like the Lakers had a chance. In the third quarter, the Warriors pushed their lead to as high as 36 points and were able to bench all of their major minute players.

76ers 121, Rockets 93

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid relished the chance to face James Harden, and wasn't going to let a little back tightness stop him.

Embiid had 32 points and 14 rebounds to lead the Philadelphia 76ers past fellow MVP contender Harden and the Houston Rockets.

"I love playing against guys you guys say are better than me," Embiid said.

Harden, selected Western Conference player of the week earlier in the day, finished with 37 points—giving him 20 straight games with at least 30.

Philadelphia played without four-time All-Star Jimmy Butler (sore right wrist), and Embiid more than made up for his absence.

"It was really fun for us," Embiid said. "Don't think it was fun for them."

Embiid was questionable before the game with lower back soreness and coach Brett Brown hinted during pregame it might be best for the Philadelphia big man to sit this one out. Embiid clearly had other intentions.

"I want to fight with my teammates," he said. "Whatever I have to do, I'll do for my team."

His 24 first-half points helped Philadelphia to a 65-50 halftime lead, and he punctuated an entertaining opening 24 minutes by pinning Harden's layup attempt with 7.5 seconds left for a crowd-pleasing block. The duo had to be separated with 38.7 seconds left in the half, with each being issued a technical, after Harden took exception to Embiid's foul on him.

AP

Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson (11) works for a rebound against Los Angeles Lakers' Tyson Chandler during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 21, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Celtics 107, Heat 99

In Boston, Kyrie Irving had 26 points and 10 assists, Al Horford added 16 points and 12 rebounds and Boston beat Miami for its fourth straight victory.

Irving has had 20 or more points and 10 or more assists in 11 games, the first Celtics player to accomplish the feat since Hall of Famer Larry Bird, who also had 11 in 1986-87.

Jayson Tatum added 19 points and Marcus Morris 17 for the Celtics, who won their ninth straight at home and improved to 18-5 at TD Garden.

Derrick Jones Jr. and Dion Waiters led the Heat with 18 points apiece.

Bucks 116, Mavericks 106

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 31 points and 15 rebounds, and Milwaukee beat Dallas.

Eric Bledsoe had 21 points and Malcolm Brogdon scored 19 for the Bucks, who have won five straight and 12 of their last 14 to improve to 34-12 overall.

Luka Doncic had 18 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for Dallas, which has lost four in a row. Jalen Brunson had 16 points.

After trailing at the half, the Bucks built a double-digit lead in the third quarter and led 92-84 heading to the fourth.

Pelicans 105, Grizzlies 85

In Memphis, Jrue Holiday and Nikola Mirotic scored 21 points, Jahlil Okafor and Julius Randle had 20, and balanced New Orleans beat Memphis without injured star Anthony Davis.

Okafor set a season high for points and added 10 rebounds filling in for Davis. Randle had 12 rebounds and Holiday grabbed 11 as New Orleans out-rebounded the Grizzlies 50-35. It was the Pelicans' first game since announcing Davis would miss 1-2 weeks with a left index finger sprain.

Nets 123, Kings 94

In New York, D'Angelo Russell had 31 points and eight assists, and surging Brooklyn won its fourth straight game by running away from Sacramento in the second half.

Russell, announced as the Eastern Conference player of the week shortly before the game, made seven 3-pointers. He hit all four 3-point attempts and was 5 for 6 overall in the third quarter, fueling a 22-4 spurt that launched the Nets into the lead for good.

Joe Harris added 19 points and rookie Rodions Kurucs had 16 for the Nets, who won for the 17th time in 22 games.

Thunder 127, Knicks 109

In New York, Paul George scored 31 points and Russell Westbrook had 17 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists as Oklahoma City beat New York.

George and Westbrook both sat out the fourth quarter. Dennis Schroder added 17 points for the Thunder while both Jerami Grant and Abdel Nader each had 16.

The Knicks have lost six in a row and 14 of 15. They have dropped nine straight at Madison Square Garden.

Tim Hardaway Jr. led the Knicks with 23 points. Allonzo Trier had 16 and Emmanuel Mudiay scored 14.

Wizards 101, Pistons 87

In Washington, Trevor Ariza scored 20 points, Otto Porter Jr. added 19 and Washington turned in its best defensive performance this season in beating Detroit.

The Wizards held the Pistons to 30 percent shooting from the floor in the first half and never let their lead dip below 10 points in the second. Detroit's 87 points were the fewest by a Washington opponent this season.

Seven Wizards players scored in double figures, including Bradley Beal with 16.

Blake Griffin led the Pistons with 29 points and nine rebounds. Detroit has lost back-to-back games and 10 of its last 14.

Magic 122, Hawks 103

In Atlanta, Evan Fournier and Nikola Vucevic scored 29 points apiece to lead Orlando past Atlanta in the season's first matchup between the Southeast Division rivals.

Vucevic had 14 rebounds and Fournier had seven assists as Orlando snapped a three-game losing streak.

Dewayne Dedmon led Atlanta with 24 points on the holiday celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. and in the city where the civil rights leader was born.

Trae Young had 21 points for the Hawks. John Collins had 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Bulls 104, Cavaliers 88

In Cleveland, Zach LaVine scored 25 points and Chicago broke a 10-game losing streak, beating Cleveland in a meeting of teams that began the day with the worst records in the NBA.

Chicago never trailed and has won all three games this season against Cleveland, which has lost 16 of 17 overall.

Bobby Portis had 15 points while Lauri Markkanen and Kris Dunn each added 13 for the Bulls.

Rockets trading Carmelo to Chicago

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Carmelo Anthony is going to Chicago, albeit only on paper.

Where he's going next remains unclear.

A person with direct knowledge of the matter said the Houston Rockets are trading Anthony and an undisclosed amount of cash to the Bulls in a deal that is expected to be completed Tuesday. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Monday because the trade still needs league approval.

When that comes—the only reason why it didn't happen Monday is because the NBA office was closed to commemorate the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday—Anthony will have a new team, though still won't be back on the floor. The Bulls have no plans to play Anthony and will look to either trade him before the Feb. 7 deadline or ultimately waive him and make him a free agent.

The trade ends a short-lived saga in Houston for Anthony, who averaged 13.4 points in 10 games with the Rockets. He has not played since Nov. 8.

Anthony was traded by Oklahoma City to Atlanta in July, a move that preceded the Hawks releasing him to sign with the Rockets. The Bulls, technically, will be Anthony's fourth franchise in seven months, with likely one more to come before long.

"We just had to see how things worked out," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said in November when the team said it was parting ways with Anthony. "And the way we play probably wasn't conducive to his game, and he was trying to make the necessary sacrifices and it wasn't fair to him as a Hall of Fame player to play in a way that wasn't good for him, wasn't good for us. It just wasn't a fit."

Anthony is a 10-time All-Star who has averaged 24.0 points and 6.5 rebounds per game in his career. He was the No. 3 pick in the star-studded 2003 draft class that also included No. 1 LeBron James, No. 4 Chris Bosh and No. 5 Dwyane Wade.

Hurdles cleared, Pats head to 3rd straight Super Bowl

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Tom Brady smiled his way through the week leading up to Sunday's AFC championship game, mostly brushing aside questions about being an underdog for one of the few times during the Patriots' unprecedented run of titles.

But when Rex Burkhead crossed the goal line for a 2-yard touchdown to give New England a 37-31 overtime win over the Kansas City Chiefs, Brady let joy alter his usual coy demeanor.

He ripped off his helmet and leapt wildly in the air as his teammates rushed the field around him. The Patriots were heading back to another Super Bowl.

It will mark their third straight appearance for the Patriots and ninth overall for Brady, who again will be chasing a record sixth ring.

A victory over the NFC champion Los Angeles Rams would also put an emphatic stamp on what may have been the Patriots' toughest road to a Super Bowl since Brady and Bill Belichick earned their first ring together in 2001.

"The odds were stacked against us. It hasn't been that way in a while and it certainly was this year," Brady said.

AP

New England Patriots wide receiver Julian Edelman (11) is tackled by Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Frank Zombo (51) during the second half of the AFC Championship NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, in Kansas City, Mo.

The obstacles that Brady referred to occurred both on and off the field for this latest incarnation of the Patriots.

The offseason saw the departure of several key players from last year's team that came up short in a Super Bowl loss to Philadelphia. Receiver Brandin Cooks was traded to the Rams and cornerback Malcolm Butler, running back Dion Lewis, receiver Danny Amendola, and offensive linemen Nate Solder and Cam Fleming all left in free agency.

Then came news that stalwart receiver Julian Edelman would be suspended for the first four games of the regular season for violating the league's policy on performance enhancers.

It helped contribute to a surprise 1-2 start and the first—albeit small— signs of age for the 41-year-old Brady.

New England took a chance and traded for receiver Josh Gordon after Cleveland decided it was time to part ways with him. His arrival helped calm things and contributed to six consecutive victories.

But questions returned after a lopsided Week 10 loss at Tennessee that exposed vulnerabilities on both sides of the ball. The Patriots won their next two, but then suffered a fluky last-second loss at Miami.

That was followed by a loss at Pittsburgh and the abrupt loss of Gordon when he was suspended indefinitely by the NFL for violating an agreement that allowed him to play after multiple drug suspensions.

Still, despite facing the prospect of not having their usual home-field advantage in the postseason, the Patriots rediscovered their run game and offensive efficiency during wins over the Bills and Jets to close the regular season.

Brady threw for four touchdowns and had his highest quarterback rating of the season in the 38-3 victory over the Jets. It set the stage for a vintage performance by Brady in their divisional-round playoff win over the Chargers. And on Sunday against Kansas City, he had 348 yards passing despite throwing two interceptions.

He also got support from a resurgent defense and revamped rushing attack on offense. The latter has gotten back-to-back 100-yard rushing games from rookie Sony Michel, who set a rookie NFL playoff record with five touchdowns in his first two postseason games.

Also making huge contributions in the fourth quarter and OT against the Chiefs were both Edelman and tight end Rob Gronkowski.

Opinion: Pass interference maybe reviewable after Saints fiasco

It won't help the New Orleans Saints feel better, but a report Monday said the NFL could consider making pass interference a reviewable play.

The NFL, constantly reactive instead of proactive, apparently is going to look into changing the challenge rules after the Saints were robbed in Sunday's NFC championship game. Rams cornerback Nickell Robey-Coleman blasted Saints receiver Tommylee Lewis on a key third down late in Sunday's game, no call was made, allowing the Rams time to tie the game and eventually win it in overtime. Nobody, not even Robey-Coleman, believes it wasn't interference. The officials screwed up.

The NFL hadn't said anything publicly about perhaps the biggest officiating controversy in its history on Monday, but a source did manage to tell Mark Maske of the Washington Post that "NFL leaders and the league's rulemaking competition committee" plan to consider making pass interference calls subject to challenges and replay review.

Too little, too late to avoid a controversy that will help define the entire 2018-19 NFL season. But perhaps another ridiculous situation could be avoided in the future.

New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick has long said coaches should be able to challenge any call, which makes the NFL's inaction until Sunday's horrendous non-call even more egregious.

Belichick's philosophy has been that all calls should be reviewable. Coaches wouldn't get more challenges than the two they have already, with a third if the first two are successful. But anything would be fair game. It makes sense.

"When you have two challenges, I don't see anything wrong with the concept of, 'You can challenge any two plays you want,'" Belichick said in 2013, according to the Sporting News. "I understand that judgment calls are judgment calls, but to say that an important play can't be reviewed, I don't think that's really in the spirit of trying to get everything right and making sure the most important plays are officiated properly."

Belichick is one of the smartest people in the NFL, and it might take more than five years for the league to listen to one of his best ideas.

The Canadian Football League has allowed challenges of pass interference for years. The league's officials felt it helped protect the integrity of the game. Which is common sense, except to the NFL, which usually needs something horrible to happen to take action.

Sunday's result probably would have flipped, rightfully, had Saints coach Sean Payton been allowed to challenge the non-call. It was obviously a blown call, and the NFL admitted as much to Payton after the game. It could have been corrected. Had the Saints gotten that call, they'd have been kicking a short field goal as time expired for the win. Instead, they just get a "sorry" from the league and have to watch the Rams play in Super Bowl LIII.

CAROL

From Page 28

the indoor court of the Daulet National Tennis Centre in Astana, Kazakhstan from Feb. 6 to 9 and will be tested against the representatives of Indonesia, China, India, South Korea, Thailand, and the host country. Pacific Oceania was promoted to Group I after edging Singapore, 2-1, in the promotional playoff in Isa Town, Bahrain last year.

Five months after the Fed Cup, Lee will don the colors of the CNMI when she competes in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

"I will also be playing in some tournament in the Pacific, including this year's Pacific Games. It's going to be a busy season," said Lee, who is the lone player in the region to have won three division titles (U12, U14, and U16) in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and the first CNMI player to play in the Australian Open Juniors.

The Saipan Community School graduate is currently ranked No. 158 in the world and is aiming to move up to the ladder, as she capitalizes on the opportunities to play more tournaments in her last season in the ITF Juniors Circuit.

EAGLES

From Page 28

was quick to remark that their friendship off the court plays a big factor with their on-court synergy.

"Jason [Wang] and I are very close friends. We would always talk and sit together. By doing that, we got to know each other, and it definitely helped us with our chemistry and team work," Song said.

Before the GCA duo delivered the clutch plays in the last set, A.J. Hudkins attempted to extend the game, as he was all over the court, making multiple and key defensive stops and several spikes for SIS. He and Alex Park scored repeatedly off serves and anchored the Geckos frontlines to help their team remain in contention in the second set.

In the opener, Steven Balakrishna and Sam Ryu contributed to GCA's winning cause, as they capitalized on an array of tips, powerful spikes, and well-aimed serves. Balakrishna also frequently warded off the Geckos' spiking attempts and finished multiple spikes of his own, while Ryu delivered on several serves, including two aces.

Meanwhile, the regular season and make-up games are scheduled for this week and barring any delays, the playoff round will start next week.

NMA

From Page 28

Gross and NMA officials met recently and came up with the proposed schedule for the qualifiers and the championships, according to NMA secretary general Robin Sapong. The organizers are hopeful that they will be able to hold competitions at the track and field facility after it was spared from total destruction caused by the Category 5 typhoon. The oval can undergo temporary fix, as majority of the lanes can still be used, while the field itself remains in good condition.

Under the recommended schedule, the series of qualifiers will start in March, while the tournament itself is slated from May 3 to 4 for elementary and from May 10 to 11 for the middle and high school students. The first leg will run from March 18 to 23 and will be for elementary schools, which will be divided into zones just like last year, while the middle and high school athletes will assist in running the qualifiers.

The middle and high schools will have their qualifier on March 23 and 30 with Rota and Tinian invited to come and join Saipan participants. The second Saipan leg of the middle and high school qualifiers will then be held on April 13, while NMA and PSS will head to Tinian and Rota to conduct qualifiers for elementary students from April 1 to 5.

For the final leg of Saipan qualifiers, elementary schools will have their competition from April 15 to 19, while the middle and high school's are set for April 27.

Organizers have proposed to split the elementary and the middle/high school divisions in the 2019 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships so as not to crowd the track facility and allow those in the older age groups to assist in running the elementary events.

NMA and PSS will be coordinating with the participating schools to arrange an organizational meeting and discuss other important details of the competition before the series of qualifiers starts.

Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League

PHOTOS By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Grace Christian Academy 1 players and their coach, Cesar Libut, pose with their championship trophy after beating Agape Christian School 1 in the middle school finals of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last week at the Saipan International School court in As Lito.

Agape Christian School 1 players and their coach, Pastor Kok Pang, pose with their runner-up trophy.

Grace Christian Academy coach Cesar Libut gives instructions to his players during a timeout.

A Grace Christian Academy player goes for an overhand serve.

An Agape Christian School releases an underhand serve.

Grace Christian Academy 1's Hyejin Elliot tips the ball over during the first set of their title match versus Agape Christian School 1.

Grace Christian Academy 2 and coach Genesis Prieto celebrate their third place finish.

Agape Christian School students and faculty members support their team.

Serena ousts Halep, faces Pliskova next

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Thompson on fire in Warriors blowout of Lakers

PAGE 25

Carol seizes opportunities

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee is making the most out of her final year in the ITF Juniors Circuit.

After starting the season with a pair of high-ranking tournaments in Australia—the AGL Loy Yang Traralgon Junior International and the Australian Open Juniors—the 17-year-old will be heading to Morocco to train at the ITF High Performance Training Centre and compete in a series of high-level events.

"This will be my last year in the ITF Juniors, so I will take every opportunity to play in top level tournaments. After the Fed Cup, I will travel to North Africa to train at the ITF center and play several tournaments just like last season," said Lee.

The Commonwealth player saw action in both the singles and doubles events of the Mediterranée Avenir in Casablanca and also competed in the ITF/CAT Juniors Megrine in Tunisia last year, winning her first round matches in the singles division of both tournaments.

Aside from her appearances in North African events in the ITF Juniors, Lee is hoping to gain entry to the ITF Women's Circuit.

"While I am in North Africa, I will try to play in two or three events in the ITF Women's Circuit," the four-time NMSA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Student Athlete of the Year awardee said.

Lee, after completing her games in the Australian Open, is back at the ITF Pacific Regional Training Center in Fiji to prepare for the Fed Cup. She was named to the Pacific Oceania Fed Cup Team for the third straight year and will be teaming ip with Papua New Guinea's Violet Apisah and Abigail Tere-Apisah, Samoa's Steffi Carruthers, and captain Gilles de Gouy of Tahiti when they play in the Group I of the 2019 Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Zone.

Lee and company will be at

See CAROL on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee, left, poses for a photo with Kanoa Resort general manager Martin Jambor, who represented the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association in the Oceania Tennis Federation meeting in Melbourne, Australia last week.

Eagles still undefeated

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Grace Christian Academy withstood Saipan International School's repeated comeback bids to keep its perfect record in the boys high school division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League.

The Eagles stiff-armed the Geckos in two sets, 25-13, 26-24, yesterday at the former's court in Navy Hill to remain undefeated after four games. SIS, on the other hand, absorbed its first loss of the season after going 2-0 to drop to second place behind the unbeaten GCA.

Setter Jason Wang and spiker Kevin Song made it to the Eagles' starting lineup after missing the team's first few games of the season and both rose to the occasion, making contributions throughout the match.

"It felt pretty nice to play with the team again," Wang said. "Before the game, we heard that SIS has a strong team, but our squad was really focused and we had good communication with each other."

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Grace Christian Academy's Steven Balakrishna, left, attempts to block a Saipan International School player during the first set of their game in the CCOPSA volleyball league yesterday at the GCA court in Navy Hill.

With the Eagles holding on to a precarious 25-24 lead in the second and final set, Wang dealt the final serve then slid over to the setter's slot to set up Song for the game-winning spike. Wang and Song's combined efforts helped prolong GCA's possessions and also put their team in a position to score in bunches.

When asked about how Song and Wang developed chemistry on the court despite playing in just their first game of the season, the former

See EAGLES on Page 26

NMA, PSS hope to proceed with All Schools track meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the damage sustained by the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility from Super Typhoon Yutu, Northern Marianas Athletics and Public School System Athletic Program director Nick Gross hope to go ahead with the 2019 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships.

See NMA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Mt. Carmel School student takes off during the long jump event in last year's All Schools track meet at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility.